

S U M M E R 2 0 0 1

# Washington

College Magazine

*Magna Cum  
Loud!*

Sultana: History Ahoy  
The Bay's Bloody Past ■ Paranormal Pursuits

## Where The Heart Is

In her lyrical introduction to a Sophie Kerr Prize-winning portfolio of essays, senior Stephanie Fowler characterizes her fellow Eastern Shore natives as complex and conflicted but with "a desire to be exactly where we are. If we know anything," Stephanie writes, "we know where home is."

In many ways this statement characterizes the Washington College community as well. During their years here as students and in a continuing relationship as alumni, some find a home here in Chestertown and view themselves and the world ever after through the lens of that experience.

To celebrate our 219<sup>th</sup> Commencement, we decided to present the voices of three graduating seniors. Whether it be the re-creation of a historical incident, the tracking of a ship's voyage or the tracing of a family, these writers explore aspects of "home" and find a sense of themselves and their personal history through scholarly and imaginative journeys.

In classes with Robert Day and Melora Wolff, Stephanie Fowler discovered

the concept of "creative non-fiction" and spent countless hours in libraries and newspaper offices to research a project titled *Crossings: A Journey Into God's Country*. In four resultant essays she puts herself and the reader in the mind of a people who are hardened by racism, economics and political strife. For this issue, we excerpted from "Sons of the Chesapeake." In reconstructing an incident from the infamous "Oyster Wars," Stephanie details the traumatic ruin of one family in the battle over the Bay's most precious resource.

No visitor to Chestertown could miss the giant mustard hull of the schooner *Sultana* tied up at the town's waterfront. Inspired by the two-year construction of the historic replica, Kees De Mooy, this year's winner of the George Washington Medal and the Non-traditional Student Award, took a journey back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century to track the various exploits of the original *Sultana*. He wasn't content to pore over records and ship's log entries, but also made a pilgrimage to every mentioned port of call, both here in the Chesapeake watershed and in England.

Jacob Ritzler's pilgrimage was more somber and more personal. As part of a Junior

Fellows video project, he traveled through Slovakia and the Czech Republic — ultimately arriving in Auschwitz — in search of his family history. In locating relatives, both living and dead, Jacob found the heart of his family, still beating proudly in the aftermath of the Holocaust.

We believe this issue's chorus of student voices is an appropriate celebration of the Class of 2001 and a fitting commemoration of the Washington College experience. In a multitude of ways, each student spends his years here discovering where home is. As T.S. Eliot so beautifully reminds us in "Little Gidding," "... the end of all our exploring/Will be to arrive where we started/And know the place for the first time." Wave after wave of eager minds arrive on the banks of the Chester. In four years of exploration, journey, discovery and rediscovery, they find a home.

—MDH

*Washington*

VOLUME XLIX NO. 3  
SUMMER 2001  
USPS 667-260

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The Magazine Group, Washington, DC.

*Washington College Magazine* (USPS 667-260) is published quarterly by Washington College, 300 Washington Avenue, Chestertown, Maryland 21620, in November (Annual Report Issue), December, March, and June. Periodical postage paid at Chestertown, Maryland and at other offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Washington College Magazine*, 300 Washington Avenue, Chestertown, MD 21620-1197. Copyright 2000. Washington College.

Address correspondence to *Washington College Magazine*, 300 Washington Avenue, Chestertown, MD 21620 or by email to: meredith.davies.hadaway@washcoll.edu (Telephone: 1-800-422-1782, ext. 7268.) Website: www.washcoll.edu  
PRINTED IN THE U.S.A.

**ABOUT THE COVER:** Lindsay Foster '01, a graduating English major, demonstrates the exuberant spirit of the Class of 2001 on Commencement day. Photo by Melissa Grimes-Guy.

# Washington

College Magazine

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This year's George Washington medalist provides a glimpse of 18th-century history through his research on the schooner *Sultana*.  
*Kees De Mooy '01*

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Senior Stephanie Fowler recreates the infamous "Oyster Wars" in these excerpts from her Sophie Kerr Prize-winning portfolio.  
*Stephanie Fowler '01*

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## AP Editor, Filmmaker Address Graduates

**K**EVIN NOBLET '75, a seasoned journalist who has led two Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative projects, and Tamara Tiehel Stedman '86, an Academy Award-winning documentary filmmaker, made the journey home to their *alma mater* to speak to the 241 graduating seniors who made up the Class of 2001. Both received Alumni Citations for excellence in their fields.

For Noblet, a highly respected reporter and editor with the Associated Press who prefers fishing to fanfare, it was a bit frightening—"like standing out on a jetty all alone with a storm raging around me." He had graciously agreed to give commencement remarks when writer Ray Bradbury cancelled his plans to appear. The 80-year-old master of science fiction and fantasy was too ill to travel from California.

For Stedman, a former real estate agent and flight attendant who finally found her true calling in film, the moment was poignant. "I got a bit teary-eyed walking up that brick walk a second time," she said.

The day before, at a symposium sponsored by the Alumni Association, both

had talked about their college experiences and the paths they had taken since leaving Washington College. Both credited their professors with instilling in them a desire to write well.

"This was such a great experience for me," remarked Stedman, who applied to just two schools—Washington College and the University of Maryland. "I remember in my freshman year I overslept for a German exam, and as I was racing to class I saw Dr. [Joachim] Scholz coming down the stairs. He saw me, smiled and said, 'Ah, I was just about to call you!' I don't know if that would have happened at the University of Maryland."

Noblet recalled Spanish and literature classes that fueled his desire to write and his yearning to see the world. "I couldn't wait to get out of college," he admitted. "I rushed out—without gradu-

ating—and it was a big mistake. I eventually earned my degree somewhere else, but it never gave me the sense of community Washington College did."

Assigned by AP to posts in Latin America and the Caribbean from the mid-1980s through 1993, Noblet covered stories that included the fall of General Augusto Pinochet in Chile, drug wars in Colombia and political turmoil in Haiti. For six years he was AP's deputy international editor in New York, and he initiated the in-

**Dennis Wilson invoked the spirit of Ray Bradbury in warning his classmates of the looming dangers of human disconnection and the "shared dialogue of silence" between institutions of higher learning and local grade schools that could benefit from open communication and mentoring programs.**

**Tammy Tiehel Stedman '86, Susan Stobbart Shapiro '91 and Kevin Noblet '75 greet President John Toll before commencement.**

vestigative project that won the news agency a Pulitzer Prize in 2000 for exposing a massacre of civilians by inexperienced U. S. troops in the early days of the Korean War. His staff also won a Pulitzer in 1995 for coverage of the genocide in Rwanda.



PHOTO: MELISSA GRAMES-GUY



PHOTO: P. TRAVIS HOLLINGSWORTH '75

He now is AP's deputy business editor in New York.

Last spring, Stedman became the first Washington College alumna to win an Academy Award. She and director Barbara Shock accepted Oscars for their film "My Mother Dreams the Satan's Disciples in New York." The 30-minute comedy was based on a real encounter between Shock's mother and the Hell's Angels bikers who were her East Village neighbors. After graduating with a degree in international studies, Stedman became a scriptwriter with a small video production company near Philadelphia and then entered the American Film Institute in Los Angeles, CA, where she produced "My Mother Dreams."

"My whole life I've watched the Oscars," she said. "For me, it was the pinnacle I hoped to achieve 'some day.' When our film won the Palm Springs Festival, we were eligible to submit it for Academy nomination. It was a dream come true to stand up there on that stage."

She told the graduating class not to worry, even if they didn't have their whole lives planned out quite yet. "Washington College prepared me in ways I didn't even realize."

Noblet took an informal approach to his commencement remarks, in which he asked the graduates several questions and promised not to sound like their parents. "Was it fun? Was it hard? Did you make friends? Were there any surprises? Did you start to get a sense of who you are?"

He said that their education was a great experiment—and one that was far from over.

As the graduates braved chilly temperatures and a light drizzle, several senior honors and prizes were presented.



PHOTO MELISSA GRIMES-GUY

**The Alumni Association's Award for Distinguished Teaching went to Clayton Black, assistant professor of history.**

The George Washington Medal, recognizing the greatest promise of understanding and realizing in life the ideals of a liberal arts education, went to Cornelis "Kees" de Mooy, a history major. De Mooy also received the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America Award, the Phi Alpha Theta Award and the Non-Traditional Student Award (see his story on page 16).

The Jane Huston Goodfellow Memorial Prize, awarded to a science major with "an abiding appreciation of the arts and humanities," went to Kyle Elizabeth Geissler, who majored in biology and psychology. She also received the department's research award.

The Sophie Kerr Prize, awarded to the graduating senior demonstrating the best literary promise, went to Stephanie Fowler, a 22-year-old English major from Salisbury, MD. Fowler's winning submission is a 150-page book of creative nonfiction titled *Crossings: A Jour-*

**In recognition of John Toll's contributions to the field and his work to build the physics program there, the University of Maryland named an academic building for him.**

ney into God's Country. (See story on page 20.)

The Louis L. Goldstein '35 Award, given in recognition of unusual interest, enthusiasm and potential in the field of public affairs, was presented to Seth William Gabriel and Kara Beth Lee, both political science majors.

Lanae Elizabeth Arnold, a psychology major, won the Eugene B. Casey Medal in recognition of her outstanding scholarship, character, leadership and campus citizenship. She also received two departmental awards—for promise in the field of psychology and for outstanding ability and achievement in the biobehavioral sciences.

Dennis Wilson, a history major who gave the senior address, received the Henry W. C. Catlin Medal for scholarship, character, leadership and campus citizenship. He also received the Knapp Memorial Prize in History.

The Clark-Porter Medal, given to the student who has most enhanced the quality of campus life, went to Jillian Joy Matundan, president of the Student Government Association. Matundan majored in political science and drama.

Gold Pentagon awards for meritorious service were presented to Donald Holdren Jr., a music and drama major, Jillian Matunden and Mark Hubley, assistant professor of biology. ▀

## UM Names Physics Building For John Toll

**I**N A PRACTICE hearkening to grand, old university traditions, the University of Maryland, College Park renamed its physics building in honor of Washington College President John Toll during a ceremony held in early May. The gesture acknowledges Dr. Toll's important contributions as the former physics department chair at Maryland and as former president and chancellor of the University of Maryland System (now the University System of Maryland).

"In baseball, Yankee Stadium is rightly known as



PHOTO CONTINAE MITCHELL



'The house that Ruth built.' In the same way, our department should be known as the 'The department that Toll built,'" said physics department chair Jordan A. Goodman during the ceremony.

After earning a B.S. degree with highest honors in physics from Yale in 1944, Toll served in the Navy during WWII. In 1952 he completed his Ph.D. in physics at Princeton, where he helped establish what is now the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory. In 1953 he became chair of Maryland's physics department, which was broadened to create the astronomy program. Thirteen years later he left to take over the presidency of the State University of New York at Stony Brook. In 1978 he returned, first as President and later as Chancellor of the expanded University of Maryland system.

Toll was a Guggenheim Fellow, has held leadership roles in dozens of organizations, and has received national and international honors and honorary degrees. He pioneered the establishment of relations between the State of Maryland and China as one of the first university presidents to visit China in the 1970s.

In physics he is recognized as a leader in developing the modern approach to dispersion theory and its application to problems on elementary particle physics. Upon Toll's leaving the Chancellor's Office in 1989 and returning to the Department of Physics, the Board of Regents conferred upon him the status of Chancellor Emeritus. In addition to his presidential duties at Washington College, he also serves as a part-time physics faculty member in the University of Maryland's College of Computer, Mathematical

and Physical Sciences.

Last year Toll also was chosen as the distinguished Marylander for the Year 2000 by the University of Maryland chapter of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. ▀

## Professors Awarded Emeritus Rank

**T**WO LONGTIME professors at Washington College, Patricia Horne and Michael Malone, were feted at the Hynson-Ringgold House in May, when both were granted faculty emeriti status.

Horne, professor of sociology, retired after 38 years of teaching. Malone, professor of economics, retired in 1999.

Horne joined the faculty in 1964. She was named assistant professor in 1970, associate professor in 1973 and full professor in 1987. She chaired the department of sociology from 1988 to 1992, and was the recipient of the College's Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching in 1988. A dedicated scholar, she spent her last sabbatical researching the historical sociology of Kent County.

When she admired the



PHOTO PEGGY FOX

**Catharine Clarke '03 finished first in a regional scholarship competition.**

German sociologist Max Weber, she took several German courses in order to be able to read his work in the original language. In the classroom, her students admired her tremendously for asking the important questions, for believing in them and for challenging them to excel.

Michael S. Malone joined the faculty in 1973. He served as acting chair of the department of economics (1973-75) and as chair of the division of social sciences (1975-1978). After launching the new department of business management, he served as its chair (1983-1987).

A specialist in microeconomics, public finance, labor economics and international economics, he has shared his expertise with several organizations and universities, both in Maryland and abroad. He was awarded two Fulbright teaching scholarships in Africa—one at Moi University in Kenya and another at University of Cape Coast in Ghana. After retiring from teaching in Chestertown, he accepted a position as professor and department head at Sultan Quaboos University in Oman. Most recently, he was a visiting professor at the University of the Western Cape. ▀



PHOTO PEGGY FOX



## Music Major Wins St. Andrew's Scholarship

**C**ATHARINE CLARKE '03, a music major intent on a career as an opera singer, has won a coveted scholarship to study in Scotland next year. Clarke, the daughter of music professor Garry Clarke and Melissa Naul Clarke '75, was ranked first among 18 finalists in the regional competition sponsored by The St. Andrew's Society of Philadelphia.

The St. Andrew's Society awarded Clarke one of four \$12,000 scholarships given each year to support the study of Scottish culture, arts, history and heritage at Scottish universities. Clarke has chosen to study languages, art history and voice at the University of St. Andrew's.

Donald McColl, assistant professor of art history, served as Washington College's liaison and coordinator of the St. Andrew's Scholarship program, and guided Clarke through the

**Economics professor Michael Malone (at left) and sociology professor Pat Horne, now both retired, were honored in May.**

application and interview process. Applicants from schools including Swarthmore, Haverford and Pennsylvania State University were judged on academic performance, extracurricular activities, defined course of study and strength of character.

"Washington College is very proud of Catharine, as both a music major and an art minor," said McColl. "She competed against some of the very best students from the Mid-Atlantic region and proved that our students and academic departments truly compare with the best."

Clarke is thrilled at the prospect of studying abroad. "I'm excited to be able to live in a foreign country and to be able to study and concentrate on other things I'm interested in, particularly languages that are so important for the study of music. I'll be taking Russian, second-year Italian and German literature."

She also intends to catch up with friends and family, and do some traveling. "I have a friend who goes to school in Switzerland, my great-uncle lives in Spain, and we have family friends in England," she says. "I'm sure it will be a wonderful experience." ▀

## Goalie Wins NCAA Scholarship

**I**T IS DIFFICULT to determine where Toby Wilmet '01 shone brightest at Washington College—in the classroom, in the art studio or on the hockey field. At the end of her college career, the humanities and art major from Dalton, PA, walked

away with a post-graduate scholarship that recognized all her accomplishments—the NCAA scholarship. It is one of 22 such scholarships awarded to Division III student-athletes across the nation.

Wilmet will use the \$5,000 award for post-graduate studies—perhaps anthropology, an interest piqued during her studies abroad. In her junior year, she spent the spring semester at Rhodes University in South Africa, where, in addition to her comparative studies of rock art, she volunteered every day at the Amasanga Daily Bread & Trust, working with school children in a poverty-stricken neighborhood of Grahamstown. Her experience in South Africa later became the basis for her senior art show, a culminating artistic exercise for the dual-sport athlete.

At the athletic awards banquet, Wilmet received the Senior Athlete Award in recognition of her contributions to the athletic program during the past four years. A Student Athlete Mentor and a member of the SAM Council, she has been active in organizing programs for athletes and this year served as a Character Coach at Garnett Elementary School. In addition to her contributions in field hockey—she earned MVP honors this year—she also excelled on the softball diamond as the team's starting catcher.

**Toby Wilmet was one of 11 Division III female athletes granted a scholarship for graduate study.**



PHOTO: MELISSA GRIMES-GUY

Last year, Wilmet was named a National Field Hockey Coaches Association First Team All-American and became the first field hockey player from Washington College to earn first team honors. A four-year starter for the Shorewomen, she stepped into the lineup as a freshman and quickly became the premier goalkeeper in the Centennial Conference.

Since then, she has led the team to a combined record of 53-21, a Conference Championship and appearances in both the NCAA and ECAC Championships. ▀

## Junior Lands Internship at Harvard

**M**ALIHA HASHMI, a junior premedical student, collects knowledge and bits of information the way most people pick up lint. In the best possible sense, she's a sponge, absorbing facts, making connections and using a network of professors, friends, ac-

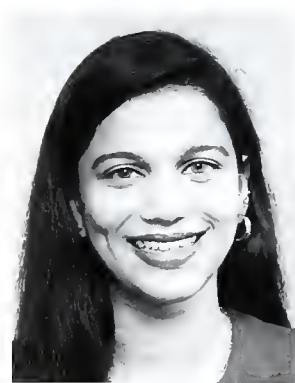


PHOTO: MELISSA GRIMES-GUY

**Since meeting Ben Carson at Washington College last fall, Maliha Hashmi '02 is determined to become a pediatric neurologist.**

quaintances and perfect strangers to move closer toward her goal. And anyone who has spent a few minutes with this sparkly, self-confident young woman has no doubt that one day she will, indeed, become a pediatric neurosurgeon.

Seeking as broad an experience as possible, she already has found her way into several hospitals. She has volunteered at the University of Pennsylvania Children's Hospital and at the Kennedy Krieger Institute at the Johns Hopkins Medical Institute. She has worked at the King Fahd Hospital and the Nora Hospital of Jeddah in Saudi Arabia. In December, her Junior Fellows project took her to the Mayo Hospital in Lahore, Pakistan.

But she caught the shiny brass ring in April when she found out she was accepted into a seven-week honors research program at Harvard Medical School. Hashmi, a biology and psychology major, will run clinical trials on patients for the head of the anesthesiology department at Harvard's affiliate hospital, Massachusetts General. The only undergraduate accepted into the program, Hashmi will be working with two



first-year medical students from Harvard on a project looking at anti-receptors for neuropathic pain.

"Sometimes, people with spinal injuries have such a low threshold for pain that if someone even touches them, it hurts," Hashmi says. "Dr. Christine Sang, the head of the clinical trials program at Harvard Medical School, hopes to develop a new drug therapy that blocks that supersensitivity."

Hashmi heard about Sang's research program through a friend who is studying neurosurgery at Harvard. He knew of Dr. Sang's work, and knew she was looking for highly motivated students. "He referred me to her," Hashmi says, "and I kept calling her until she called me back. I sent her my information, and then we talked for two hours on the phone. I told her I knew I was at a disadvantage because I couldn't come to meet her in Boston, but that I was confident I could do the work. When she told me I'd be working 80 hours a week—in addition to the clinical trials I'd be helping organize data—I told her that was no problem." ■

## Board Approves Tuition Increase

**I**N APRIL, the Board of Visitors and Governors announced a \$1,000 increase in tuition for the coming academic year. The total basic cost for full-time students will be \$28,040, or 3.7 percent over total charges for the current year.

The increase has been ap-

HEARD AROUND CAMPUS

### On The News Business

"In my business virtually everything is for sale. It is a different universe than the one I so naively entered some 30 years ago. The news business has changed and so have we. Back then, we were more or less in the business of delivering the news. Now we're in the business of delivering audiences. Back then, the line between news and entertainment was clear-cut. It was church and state. Now those lines are hopelessly blurred. If the truth be told, we spend far more time in the television news on how an interview looks than on what it says."

—NBC National Correspondent Bob Faw on "The Future of Network News"

April 18, 2001



plied to tuition alone (\$21,750), while the basic charges for room (\$2,600), board (\$3,140) and student fees (\$550) will hold constant.

"The 3.7 percent increase is the second lowest percentage total increase for tuition, fees, room and board at Washington College in the last 26 years," said College President John Toll. "The College intends to hold down cost as much as possible while continuing to enhance the quality of education and to improve facilities

for our students."

Earlier this year, the College opened Goldstein Hall, a new academic facility, and renovated the Student Center in Hodson Hall. The College presently is planning for the design and construction of a major addition to the science complex and has hired an architectural firm to develop a series of short-term and long-term projects to address facility needs in the fine and performing arts. The College also is continuing renovations of the existing

student residential spaces, including Queen Anne House and Cullen Hall, and will accelerate the construction of four new student residence halls on the north end of campus.

Even with tuition inching higher each year, tuition dollars cover only two-thirds of the cost of educating a student, Toll remarked. The balance is made up through gifts to the College. ■

## Cowperthwait Posts Win In Art Show

**W**HAT STARTED as a black and white photographic image of a parking meter exploded into a wall of mailboxes, fire hydrants and other metallic objects, rendered in various colorful media. Jill Cowperthwait, one of six graduating art majors, captured the Senior Art Show this spring with her collection of pop art in oils, pastels

Jill Cowperthwait '01 used symbols of an urban landscape as inspiration for her senior show.



PHOTO: JAMES MATHIEZ



and silk screens.

While she has always tended to focus closely on the image without incorporating a lot of background, she wanted to experiment with several media to get different effects, she noted. "They all work together."

An art major with a minor in psychology, Cowperthwait wants to make a career of her art. She plans to build her portfolio in the coming year, and then earn a master's of fine arts degree. It is a path she began to follow four years ago.

"I chose to come to Washington College because of the art studio," Cowperthwait said. "It's so nice to have a place like this to work in, and the art community is really awesome."

"The senior art majors had an intense year together, and any one of us could have won. It's a lot of work when you're in the studio, but when you have something to show for it, it makes it worthwhile. It's something I take a lot of pride in." ▮

## Copeland Professorship Pushes Campaign To \$66 Million

**A** BEQUEST FROM Pamela Cunningham Copeland, coupled with a gift from her daughter, Louisa Copeland Duemling, provided \$500,000 to establish the Lammot duPont Copeland Professorship in the Center for Environment and Society. Their gifts, which are matched under the terms of the Hodson Challenge that double all gifts to endowment of \$100,000 or



Maryland Governor Parris Glendening (right) greets Margaret Goldstein Janney '75 before a dinner honoring Goldstein Hall donors. Looking on are Philip Goldstein, Henry C. Beck Jr. and President John S. Toll.

more, pushed the Campaign for Washington's College beyond \$66 million.

Dr. Wayne Bell, Director of the new Center for Environment and Society, was named the first Lammot duPont Copeland Professor at Washington College.

In other development news, private support for Louis L. Goldstein Hall topped \$2 million in April, completing a public/private partnership that included \$2 million from the State of Maryland in the successful fundraising campaign for Goldstein Hall. Maryland Governor Parris N. Glendening delivered the keynote address before a dinner of donors of \$1,000 or more to the project on April 20. Recent major gifts pushing fundraising for Goldstein Hall past the \$2 million mark included \$125,000 from Washington College parents, \$150,000 from The Booth Ferris Foundation, and \$500,000 allocated from an earlier \$1 million grant from The Grayce B. Kerr Fund. ▮

## College Receives Half-Million-Dollar Gift

**W**ASHINGTON College has received \$500,000 from the estate of Hazel Ann Fox, the late aunt of Alonzo G. Decker Jr., retired chief executive officer of the Black & Decker Corporation and honorary co-chair of the Campaign for Washington's College.

Fox passed away in 1995 at the age of 103. Born in Baltimore, she studied singing and dancing in her youth, eventually becoming an award-winning competitive dancer, a pastime she enjoyed throughout her life. Fox was known for her unpretentious demeanor and a zest for life, and was an active patron of the arts and education in Baltimore. Her generosity benefited not only Washington College, but also the Baltimore Museum of Art, the Maryland Institute, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and Johns Hopkins Hospital.

"My aunt had long been a proponent of higher education and took great pleasure

in giving her support whenever possible," said Decker.

The gift will be added to the College's general endowment for funding scholarships, academic programs, faculty positions and the maintenance and improvement of buildings. ▮

## College Names New Trustees

**A**T ITS APRIL meeting, the Board of Visitors and Governors approved a new slate of officers and welcomed several new trustees.

Jack S. Griswold, formerly vice chairman, succeeds L. Clifford Schroeder as chairman of the board. Sheryl V. Kerr, formerly treasurer, was named vice chairman. Norris W. Commodore '73 steps up as treasurer. John A. Moag Jr. '77 continues in his role as secretary.

Joseph L. Holt, the College's vice president for administration, was named assistant secretary, and H. Louis Stettler III, the College's senior vice president, was named assistant treasurer.

The board reelected Henry C. Beck to a new six-year term and tapped Carl Ferris, a member of the president's advisory council, to join the board. Beck, a Dallas business executive with ties to Maryland's Eastern Shore, has served on the board since 1983. A graduate of Dartmouth College's Thayer School of Engineering, Mr. Beck also attended Harvard Business School and MIT. Ferris, who has a home in Rock Hall, MD, worked for the DuPont Company for 16 years before becoming a highly successful restaurateur

with more than a dozen Burger King franchises. Ferris is a graduate of Cornell University. He and his wife, Connie, recently funded a chair in business management at Washington College.

Also new to the board is Caroline Boutté, an architect who is active in the arts. She will serve out Clare "Pat" Ingersoll's unexpired term, which extends through 2005. A former project officer with the World Bank, Boutté operates her own custom residential design/build firm, Graybanks Design Group LLC, in Easton, MD. Boutté serves on the board of the National Museum of Women in the Arts, and was Chairman in 1997 of the Museum's Tenth Anniversary Ball. She is a trustee of The Academy of the Arts in Easton and The Historical Society of Talbot County, MD. She is a member of the Women's Committee of both the Washington Opera and the Columbia Hospital for Women.

Matthew T. Weir '90 and John A. Moag Jr. '77 were both reappointed to the board. Weir is former chairman of the Washington College Friends of the Arts and currently serves on the Campaign Cabinet. He endowed the "Mary Martin Scholarship" in honor of his grandmother and was a major supporter of the recent renovation

tion of Norman James Theatre. Moag distinguished himself as a partner in the law firm of Patton Boggs, LLP and as Chairman of the Maryland Stadium Authority. Now a managing director at Legg Mason Wood Walker, Inc., Moag leads a multi-disciplinary financial team devoted to the sports industry. His group at Legg Mason has extensive experience in stadium and arena financing, the sale of franchises, and financial reorganizations. He has been a member of the Washington College Board of Visitors and Governors since 1989. ▀

## Sacks Addresses Creativity

**N**EUROLOGIST and best-selling author Oliver Sacks spoke to a packed house at Washington College in March. More than 800 people filled the College's Tawes Theatre to hear the author of *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat* and the inspiration for



Amanda Baldwin '03 greeted Oliver Sacks when the famous neurologist and author visited campus.



PHOTO: JAMES MARTINEZ

Sarah Johnson '03 and Don Holdren '01 reinvent a scene from Shakespeare at Baltimore's Inner Harbor.

the film *Awakenings* lecture on "Creativity and the Brain." Sacks described clinical cases of famous savants, individuals with Tourette's Syndrome and other neurological conditions that provide some insights of the mental processes he proposed are hallmarks of truly creative minds.

Sacks also noted the "sane smallness" of Washington College during his visit. The event was part of the Second Annual Jesse Ball duPont Behavioral Neuroscience Speaker Series sponsored by the Jesse Ball duPont Fund, the Gibson-Wagner Fund, the Washington College Department of Psychology and the Washington College Chapter of the Sigma Xi Scientific Research Society. ▀

## "Fakespeare Players" Appear At Inner Harbor

**T**O WASH, or not to wash." That was the question when Washington College's Royale Fakespeare Players "madlibbed" the Bard during a performance at the Balti-

more Inner Harbor in April. The troupe of actors performed scenes from Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, *The Taming of the Shrew* and other plays, with the assistance of audience members gathered at the outdoor amphitheater.

"We have a lot of fun with Shakespeare using madlibs and parodies," said Mindy Beers '01, general manager of the troupe of drama majors. "We collect words from the audience in the traditional madlib party game fashion. Then our actors have to fill in the blanks using these words in a traditional Shakespearean scene. The results are always unexpected and hilarious."

The Royale Fakespeare Players was founded by Lindsay Krieg '00 in 1998 as a way to make Shakespeare more enjoyable and more accessible to the public. Since then, the Players have performed on campus, at local schools and at various public events and festivals.

"The famous balcony scene from *Romeo and Juliet* might not appeal to most people at first, but when we re-script it for a college la-



crosse player enamored with a sorority girl, well, suddenly Shakespeare doesn't seem so distant from our time," said Beers. ▀

## College Recognizes Jessie Ball duPont

**W**ASHINGTON College has named the Academic Resources Center in Goldstein Hall in honor of the late Jessie Ball duPont. Consisting of the math center, the writing center and the study skills office, the Jessie Ball duPont Academic Resources Center recognizes Mrs. duPont's philanthropic spirit and support of the College through the generosity of the Jessie Ball duPont Fund.

Since 1983, the Jessie Ball duPont Fund has awarded 18 grants totaling \$1.8 million to Washington College for a variety of purposes. Among the key initiatives supported by the Fund are the environmental studies program and the new Center for the Environment and Society, internships with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, scholarships for non-traditional students and the development of a behavioral neuroscience concentration. Additionally, the Fund supports a joint program with Western Maryland and Goucher colleges that brings visiting African American scholars to campus. Other grants from the Fund have included support for student/faculty collaborative research in the sciences and planning for the Campaign for Washington's College. A plaque recognizing Mrs. duPont will be on display in Goldstein Hall.

"In so many instances, the Jessie Ball duPont Fund has been a pioneering partner as we have developed new programs at Washington College," said College President John S. Toll. "Mrs. duPont's vision, as carried out by the trustees of the Jessie Ball duPont Fund, has enabled the College to move in bold new directions to enrich our academic program. We are honored that the Fund President, Sherry Magill, agreed that the College should recognize Mrs. duPont's great contributions with the naming of the Academic Resources Center in Goldstein Hall."

Jessie Dew Ball was born in 1884 into a genteel Virginia family impoverished by the Civil War. Educated in a one-room country school and later at what is now Longwood College in Farmville, VA, she helped her father in his law practice and taught school in her home county until 1908, when she moved to San Diego, CA. There she became assistant principal in the largest elementary school in the city.

In 1921, she married Alfred I. duPont, whom she had met as a teenager when he came to Virginia on hunting expeditions at the turn of the century.

From the time of her marriage, Mrs. duPont focused her life on charitable and philanthropic work. For four decades she funded hundreds of scholarships for college students, mostly in the southeastern states. Her gifts to colleges and universities augmented faculty salaries and built libraries.

When she died in 1970, her will established the Jessie Ball duPont Religious, Charitable and Educational Fund to continue her philanthropic work. The principles and interests that she pursued during her life still guide the Fund today. ▀

### W C IN THE NEWS

## Some Recent Ink...

"Stephanie Fowler is my newest hope for the future of a culture. She is 22 years old and says she is haunted by language. I am 56 years old and haunted by a fear that no one else in her generation cares about language."

—*Sun* columnist Michael Olesker on 2001 Sophie Kerr Prize winner Stephanie Fowler, *The Baltimore Sun*, Tuesday, May 22, 2001 ("Placing value on journeying to the heart of one's life")

"When her name was called, Fowler, who once wrote a sonnet to her '95 Camaro called 'Ode to an O', covered her face and wept."

—*Sun* reporter Chris Guy on the awarding of the 2001 Sophie Kerr Prize, *The Baltimore Sun*, May 21, 2001 ("Book about Eastern Shore is latest Sophie's choice")

"Widmer is a historian turned speechwriter turned historian again, and his manner is clearly professorial: He's friendly, funny, and soft-spokenly longwinded. He's a slight man, pale with thinning hair, who looks more than a little like Vladimir Putin."

—Jesse Oxfeld on Dr. Ted Widmer, new Director of the C. V. Starr Center for the Study of the American Experience, *Brill's Content*, April 2001 ("Thinking About Tomorrow")

"Washington College biologist Douglas Darnowski and his students have figured out how to do something science has never done before—something the squeamish might think should never have been done at all. They found a new method for expanding the world's population of killer plants."

—Heather Dewar, *The Baltimore Sun*, May 3, 2001 ("Making botanical progress")

"Now, there are a lot of colleges that have the name Washington on them, but Washington College was the only college to which George Washington gave permission to use his name. There are a lot of stories of how that was done, but I understand that part of it was due to the negotiating skills of Louis Goldstein."

—Gov. Parris Glendening speaking at the dedication of the donors' plaque for Goldstein Hall, quoted in *Kent County News*, April 16, 2001 (Stephen Spotswood, "Glendening visits Kent County for dedication")

For the latest links to Washington College *In the News*, visit our online newsroom at <http://newsroom.washcoll.edu>.

## College Establishes Sigma Xi Chapter

**W**ASHINGTON College has been granted a charter to establish a chapter of Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society. The chapter received its charter during an installation ceremony held on campus in April.

"The primary benefits of our Sigma Xi affiliation will be an increased availability of research grant money for faculty and student projects, and opportunity for a greater exchange of ideas and for interdisciplinary collaboration with researchers from other institutions," said Dr. Michael Kerchner, an associate professor of psychology who will serve as first president of the newly formed chapter.

Founded in 1886, Sigma Xi is a non-profit membership society of more than 80,000 scientists and engineers elected to the Society because of their research achievements or potential. In addition to publishing the journal *American Scientist*, Sigma Xi awards annual grants to promising young researchers, holds forums on

critical issues at the intersection of science and society, and sponsors a variety of programs supporting honor in science and engineering, science education, science policy and the public understanding of science. The affiliation allows Washington College faculty and students to advance scientific education and research through grants, travel awards, conferences and visiting scientists.

For the last five years, Dr. Kerchner has been part of a core of faculty, primarily in the natural sciences, working to bring Sigma Xi to the College. "Our three-year plan for the chapter includes a schedule of events and speakers, membership recruitment strategies, professional development plans, community outreach initiatives and programs to foster undergraduate research opportunities that demonstrate our commitment to Sigma Xi's ideals." ▀

## Men's Tennis Makes A Run At NCAA Title

**T**HE WASHINGTON men's tennis team completed another successful season, finishing 19-2,

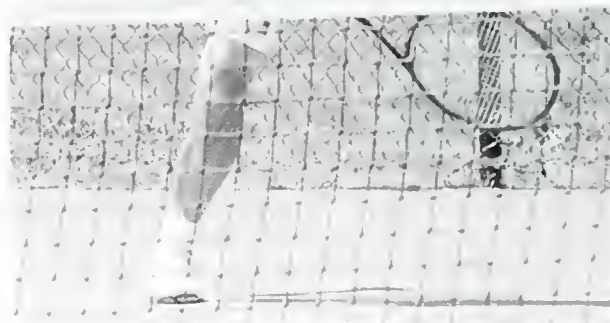


PHOTO: CHARLIE CAMPBELL

holding on to its Centennial Conference title and reaching the quarterfinals of the NCAA Division III championship.

The Shoremen won their eighth Centennial Conference championship, having never lost a match in conference play.

Washington's ride in the NCAA tournament started in Chestertown. The Shoremen were the #2 seed from the Atlantic South Region, and hosted Swarthmore and Washington & Lee for the right to move on to the

**Jose Lejarraga '03, competing in the NCAA Division III singles competition, advanced to the quarterfinals, but lost in the final set to a player from Trinity College.**

quarterfinals. The team downed Washington & Lee, 4-0, by winning all four singles matches. Jose Lejarraga won his first singles match 6-2, 6-0. Freshman Peter Taylor was broken in his fourth singles match, but was able to come back and win 6-1, 7-5.

Washington advanced to the quarterfinals. The Shoremen were upset by Williams College (MA), 4-2. Williams went on to claim the national title.

The Shoremen took two doubles matches from Williams as Lejarraga and Seth Morgan won their match 9-7. Williams took the singles competition with four wins. Washington's lone singles winner was Taylor. He won 6-4, 7-5.

In the individual portion



**Geraldine Twitty, director-at-large at Sigma Xi (center), and President John Toll were on hand for the installation of Sigma Xi officers at Washington College. Serving for 2001-2002 are (from left) Michael Kerchner, associate professor of psychology; Douglas Darnowski, assistant professor of biology; Martin Connaughton, assistant professor of biology; and Leslie Sherman, assistant professor of chemistry.**



of the championship, Morgan and Lejarra were eliminated in the first round of the doubles competition. Kyle Harding and Jeff Keen of Kalamazoo College (MI) downed the Shoremen pair 3-6, 6-4, 6-4. ▀

## Bell Leads Conference On Coastal Seas

**W**AYNE H. Bell, director of the College's Center for the Environment and Society, will head to Japan this November to help establish international policy to protect the world's enclosed coastal seas.

Bell, with his expertise in environmental, scientific and political matters affecting the Chesapeake Bay, was tapped to serve as program planning co-chair for EMECS 2001, the Fifth International Conference on the Environmental Management of Enclosed Coastal Seas.

The conference is orga-

nized by the International EMECS Center in Kobe, established to promote the preservation of Japan's Seto Inland Sea and the world's enclosed coastal seas through international cooperation and information exchange.

The EMECS concept developed in the mid-1980s when environmentalists, researchers and policymakers involved with the Chesapeake Bay realized the Bay restoration program was being implemented with little knowledge of the information, methods and results gained by other estuarine and enclosed coastal sea programs.

Led by the late Dr. Ian Morris, former director of the University of Maryland's Center for Environmental and Estuarine Studies (now the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science), an international group was assembled to examine the strengths and weaknesses of similar estuarine and coastal sea projects.

Concurrently, Governor Toshitami Kaihara of Japan's Hyogo Prefecture had similar concerns while concluding

ing a successful agreement among 17 Japanese jurisdictions for the environmental restoration of the nation's Seto

**Wayne H. Bell is helping to set the agenda for an international environmental conference.**



**Former First Lady Helen Gibson encouraged women of the community to support the College.**

PHOTO: GIBSON/ANTHONY

Inland Sea. Kaihara sought to maintain the health of his region's principal coastal sea while networking with other researchers, educators and policymakers involved in the management of enclosed coastal sea environments.

"EMECS grew out of a common desire to learn from the experience of others and share what we learned for the benefit of environmental restoration programs throughout the world," said Bell.

Bell hopes to make undergraduate education in the environmental sciences an important part of the conference's discussions.

"We have discovered that studying the environment is a great way to teach science to undergraduates," said Bell.

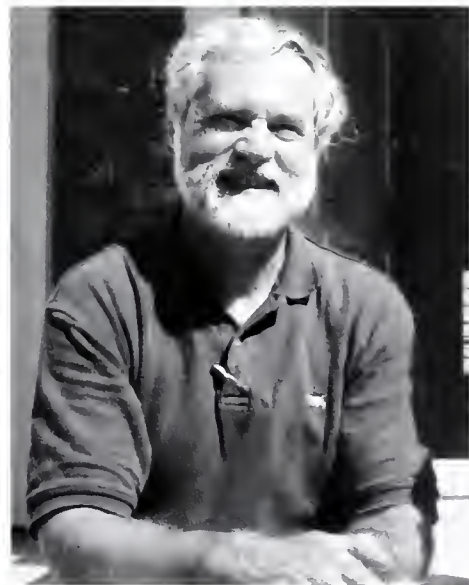
"In order to prepare a new generation to tackle the nation's and the world's environmental problems, we have to emphasize education, not only for the public, but for undergraduates interested in becoming environmental scientists, educators and leaders." ▀

## Women's League Honors Helen Gibson

**F**OUNDED IN May 1951, the Women's League of Washington College celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. In honor of its founder, the Women's League has decided to name its annual scholarship for Helen S. Gibson, wife of the late Daniel Z. Gibson, president of the College from 1950 to 1970.

"Helen welcomed into the Women's League all women in the community interested in the welfare of the College and its students," noted league president Missy Carroll.

The league presented \$10,000 for the Helen S. Gibson Scholarship to President Toll in May. The league also gave the College \$2,500 for the Miller Library in memory of the late Katherine Anthony Clements '37, a former Women's League president. ▀



# Spooky Science

CIARÁN O'KEEFFE '94 has channeled his lifelong fascination for all things otherworldly into a career that puts hauntings and psychic communications to the scientific test.

**O**'Keeffe, a parapsychology researcher in England, keeps an open mind when he runs his critical investigations of paranormal activity. When he and his research team at the University of Hertfordshire bring a medium into the controlled environment of a laboratory or analyze a photograph of what appears to be spirit, there is always the thought that this might be the "white crow" William James spoke of. He said: "In order to disprove the law that all crows are black, it is enough to find one white crow."

Yet even the most famously haunted sites in England—Hampton Court Palace and Edinburgh Castle—have offered no scientific evidence of spirits. At Hampton Court, where Henry VIII had Catherine Howard beheaded, O'Keeffe conducted an intensive ghost hunt. "Legend suggested that when Catherine heard the news of her impending execution, she tried to run to the king but was stopped by the guards and dragged along what is now known as the Haunted Gallery," O'Keeffe says. "There have been unusual sightings of a woman in white, so we went into the palace to investigate."

A drop in temperature could be the result of a breeze, which can be picked up with temperature sensors, O'Keeffe explains. A thermal imager picks up cold spots.

Researchers in Canada also have suggested that magnetic fields can cause strange sensations. Further analysis from Edinburgh and future sites may validate that hypothesis.

"Most of the time people genuinely believe they have experienced something," he says.



That "belief" in the supernatural may be the most plausible explanation for reported paranormal events, suggests O'Keeffe. "If we pointed to a particular room as haunted and then had hundreds of people go through all the rooms, we hypothesize that more people would report hauntings in the room that we suggested was haunted."

O'Keeffe also collects anecdotal evidence of ghostly sightings, poltergeists, exorcisms and faith healings.

"The problem is that, from a psychologist's perception, human memory is fallible," O'Keeffe says. "Eyewitness testimony is notoriously bad. Even when qualified researchers have commented on poltergeists, we get differences in detail from the same case. One may report rain coming from the ceiling, while another may report water flowing from a wall as if from a faucet. These are compelling cases, but what evidence can you have? Anecdotal evidence is not enough for a scientist."

It is science that debunks claims of spirits caught on film. "Some anomalies turn

helps purported psychics "read" their clients. "These people are very good psychologists," says O'Keeffe. "They can glean information from a client in the first 30 seconds—with clues from their clothes, their speech, their appearance—and then the interaction occurs. It is quite literally a conversation. Through what is known as cold reading, psychics use a more engaging and dramatic style while employing vagueness and ambiguity. If a psychic gives you pages of information, you'll remember only the correct information and ignore the information that was wrong."

Since earning his master's degree in investigative psychology, O'Keeffe has lost much of his spooky acceptance. "As an undergraduate, I was convinced by other people's experience. My master's research looking at psychic detection pushed me over the edge toward skepticism. Many of these psychics are wonderfully gregarious, friendly and caring. They want to help. The only thing they conjure up, though, is clients."

Through his research, O'Keeffe is making a name for himself as a consultant on movies and various criminal investigations, as well as in the academic field. He is preparing an article for publication on the Hampton Court and Edinburgh findings, and is about to undertake a book project on Spiritualism. The book will be "an unbiased, yet academic text" on the religious movement from its origins in Hydesville, NY, in 1848, to its current standing in the UK and USA.

O'Keeffe is also working on a small book project on the Ouija board, which, strangely enough, has some cosmic connection to Chestertown. One of the board inventors was E. C. Reichie, a Chestertown cabinetmaker. ▀

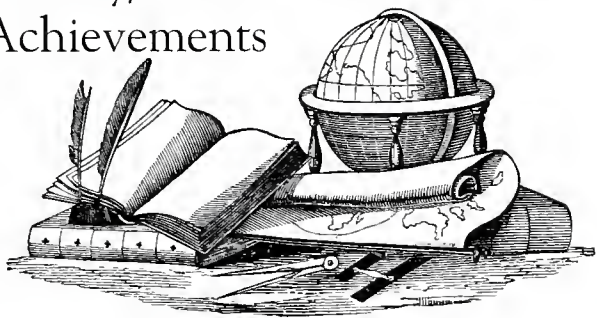
**As a Ph.D. student at the University of Hertfordshire, Ciarán O'Keeffe '94 looks for natural explanations to supernatural claims.**

out to be flashes, camera straps, thumbs," O'Keeffe says, "but we did actually pick up some anomalies at Edinburgh. We determined one to be a drip in an underground vault that was seeping lime. Other photographs we are still analyzing."

It is science, too, that



## Faculty/Staff Achievements



LOUISE AMICK, assistant professor of mathematics, gave a presentation titled "Cauchy's Integral Theorem" at the 2001 Annual Joint Meetings of the Mathematical Association of America and the American Mathematical Society held in New Orleans. She also presented the paper "That Indispensable Constant of Integration" at the annual meeting of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics held in Orlando in April.

MILISSA BOLCAR, assistant professor of chemistry, MARK HUBLEY, assistant professor of biology, and VICKY LENTZ, assistant professor of biology, were successful in a grant writing effort, bringing to the College \$60,000 from the Merck Company to support collaborative student research and other programming initiatives.

KEVIN BRIEN, professor of philosophy, had a paper titled "Logos and Mythos: How to Regain the Love of Wisdom via the Union of Marx and Buddha" accepted and selected for discussion at a special session of the Fourth World Congress of the International Society for Universal Dialogue, to be held at Jagiellonian University in Cracow, Poland, this

July. He also gave a talk titled "Three Wise Men: Heraclitus, Lao Tzu, and Buddha" at Wesley College in April and has taught a workshop on the basics of Buddhist meditation for the Unitarian Universalists of the Chester River.

TOM COUSINEAU, professor of English, reviewed an essay, "Beckett and France," for a panel held at last year's MLA Convention. The essay will appear in an upcoming issue of *The Beckett Circle*, the newsletter of the Samuel Beckett Society. In addition, he has published an essay titled "Cherchez La Foule" in the journal *Samuel Beckett Today*.

LISA DANIELS, assistant professor of economics, presented a paper titled "Testing Alternative Measures of Microenterprise Profits and Net Worth" at the Eastern Economics Association meeting in New York City in February. At the same meeting, she was a discussant for a paper titled "Institutions and Economic Growth: Empirical Evidence from a Cross-National Analysis," by Maya Vijayaraghavan.

PEGGY DONNELLY, assistant professor of education, presented a session titled "From

Campus to Classroom: Best Practice in Teacher Education" at the annual meeting of the Association of Teacher Educators in New Orleans in February. She also delivered a presentation to the faculty of Worton Elementary School on "Professional Portfolios as an Assessment Instrument in Teacher Education" in March. In addition,

she presented a session, "Thunder at Gettysburg: Fourth Grade Interpretation," at the Children's Literature Conference at the University of Pittsburgh in May 2001.

MARK HUBLEY, assistant professor of biology, had an article co-authored with Christopher Parks '00 and



PHOTO: MELISSA GRIMES GUY

Assistant professor of biology Doug Darnowski had a peer-reviewed paper, co-authored with sophomore Matthew McDermott, accepted by the *Carnivorous Plant Newsletter* of the International Carnivorous Plant Society. Titled "Abiotic Factors, Particularly CO<sub>2</sub> Concentration, Affecting Carnivorous Plants from the Eastern Shore of Maryland," the paper is based on the research done in the Summer 2000 Undergraduate Research Program funded by the Gale Foundation. Dr. Darnowski's teaching in plant diversity and research on carnivorous plants also were featured in an article in *The (Baltimore) Sun* on May 3, 2001. A short article on results of his recent trip to Australia was accepted by the *Bulletin of the Australian Carnivorous Plant Society*. Dr. Darnowski and McDermott also had an abstract for a poster accepted by the *Botanical Society of America*. Titled "Analysis of growth requirements of locally rare bladderworts (*Utricularia* spp.; *Lentibulariaceae*)," the abstract's first author is McDermott, who conducted the investigation as part of the Undergraduate Research Program funded by the Gale Foundation.

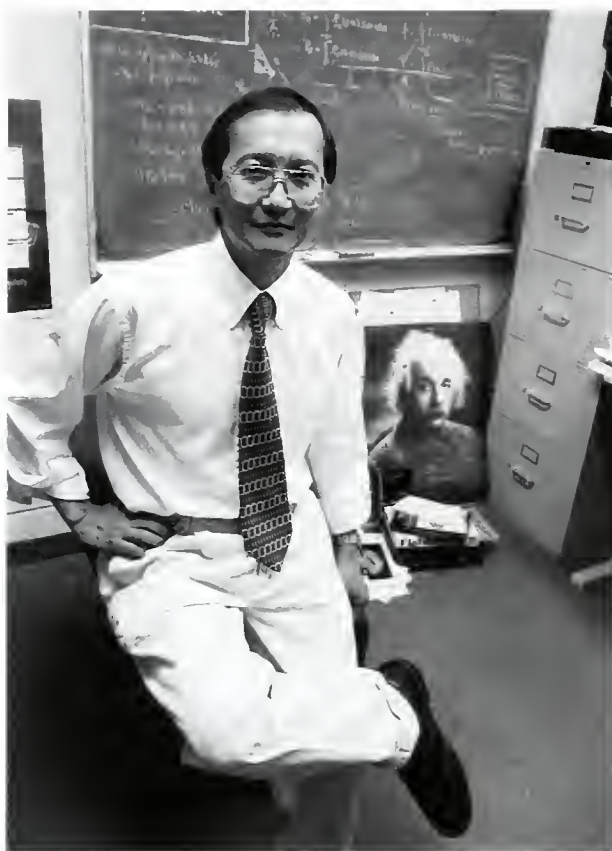


PHOTO: GREGORY ANTHONY

physics professor JUAN LIN accepted for publication. "Temperature-Induced Changes in the Locomotor Capacity of Juvenile *Marenzelleria Viridis* (Polychaeta: Spionidae)" will appear in the journal *Invertebrate Biology*.

MIKE KERCHNER, associate professor of psychology, attended the recent meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association in Washington, DC, and was the chief organizer of the behavioral neuroscience panel discussion, where he summarized the collaborative-laboratory project that MARK HUBLEY and he have been developing. He also presented a poster with junior Donald Stranahan as the primary author and another poster on research conducted with GEORGE SPILICH, professor

of psychology, and a colleague at Middlebury College. One of the co-authors was senior Amanda Delcher.

LAUREN LITTLEFIELD, assistant professor of psychology, presented three posters at the annual meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association with student co-authors. The posters addressed "What you should know before diagnosing ADHD," "The cognitive underpinnings of reading disorder," and "Evaluating the efficacy of a summer enrichment program for at-risk children."

HARRIET MASEMBE, visiting Jessie Ball duPont Scholar, attended the conference "Crossroutes: The Meanings of Race for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," held in Italy in March. While there, she presented a paper, "Finding their Song: August

Juan Lin, professor of physics, had an article, "Fuzzy Decisions in Modular Neural Networks," accepted for publication. Co-authored with E. Mizraji, it will appear in the *International Journal of Bifurcation and Chaos*, Vol. 11, 155-167 (2001). In addition, he reviewed "The Dynamics of a Vertically Transmitted Disease" for *Applied Mathematics Letters*, and "Permanence for N-species Lotka-Volterra Systems" for *Computers and Mathematics*.

Wilson's Joe Turner and Multiracial Identity in the U.S.A." and chaired a workshop in drama.

KEVIN MCKILLOP, associate professor of psychology, and two student co-authors presented papers at the annual meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association in Washington, DC. The papers were titled "We Have Met the Enemies, and They Are Not Us" and "The Anatomy of a Secret." In addition, an article concerning his work on secret-keeping (mentioning Washington College) appeared in the April 2001 issue of *Allure* magazine.

BOB MOONEY, director of the O'Neill Literary House and assistant professor of English, had his short story "Witness" accepted for publication in the literary journal *Artful Dodge*. He was one of five speakers at this year's From Bay-to-Ocean Writers' Conference held in February in Easton, MD. He gave a talk titled "Truth and Fiction" and participated in a panel discussion on the subject of "The State of Contemporary Letters."

SÉAN O'CONNOR, professor of education, completed a

CD/audiotape set titled "An Active Approach To Learning" for a faculty development project to support the overall quality of teaching and learning in graduate programs for the University of New South Wales and the University of Sydney, Australia. In addition, he created a CD/audiotape for graduate students titled "The Student as Learner."

DAN PREMO, professor of political science, completed a book review of *The Friendly Liquidation of the Past: The Politics of Diversity in Latin America* by Donna Lee Van Cott. The review will appear in the *American Political Science Review*.

JOHN SEIDEL, assistant professor of environmental studies, was elected to the Executive Board of the Council for Maryland Archaeology, which represents professional archaeologists in Maryland's academic institutions, government agencies and the private sector.

GEORGE SHIVERS, professor of Spanish, participated in a Fulton School of Liberal Arts colloquium at Salisbury State University in March.

KAREN SMITH, professor of physical education, gave two presentations titled "Using Imagery to Improve Alignment" and "Putting it All Together: Planning Your Dance Concert or Festival" at the Eastern District Association of HPERD's annual convention in Newport, RI.

SUIHENG ZHAO, associate professor of political science, served as a moderator on a television program aired in March titled *The China Forum*, discussing "Political Succession in China." ■



# Page 27

by Jim Dissette '71



so I pulled on my long black gloves to the elbows, where small spurs would be fitted with greasewood and shards of light. They fit even and snug as they always did for this kind of travel—back through those precipitous years—a traveling like falling through ten swimming pools, each one colder and darker until the last one freezes darkly into an image of my mother waving a burning scarf across the fully eclipsed moon of an open well.

Arriving on the shore of that year, but staying for only the briefest of moments—thin as a shadowlick—I gathered the only tinctures of promise and mineral joys, the tiny harvests of sleep, and brought an armful back so fast they singed as I threw them in the air of this very moment to alight on bare winter limbs and are witnessing now as crows.

Still, my brother was not born yet. I save a place for him at tables, on the dizzying carousel, even in my boat as the tidewater sighs and unsays itself, because I am saving for him the story of where lost things go, of concord

An early winner of the Sophie Kerr Prize, Jim Dissette '71 has lived on the Oregon coast since 1981. In the years since graduation he has continued his writing, founded Songs Before Zero Press, a limited edition publishing company, and currently works as a graphic designer and county newspaper publisher. The Page 27 project is a series of "constructions" born out of the spirit of Joseph Cornell and Jorge Luis Borges. All texts are by the author; photos are by the author and his father, Edward Dissette.

Page 27



# *Diary of the Schooner* **SULTANA**

IN THE MONTHS WHEN COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS in Chestertown were building an historically accurate replica of the 18<sup>th</sup>-century American-built schooner *Sultana*, history major Kees de Mooy '01 became intrigued with the history of the original.

He began his investigation by transcribing the ship's logs, and then, with a grant from the Society of Junior Fellows, visited all the ports the *Sultana* had seen, on American shores and in England.

His senior thesis, on which this article is based, documents the exploits the *Sultana* made "in pursuit of revenue" for Mother Britain.

**I**N THE MID-1760s, a crisis was developing between Britain and her American colonies. After more than 100 years of relative autonomy, Americans suddenly faced taxes imposed on them by British Parliament. British army and naval forces had defended the 13 colonies in the French and Indian War, and Parliament needed to make up for the tremendous debts incurred during seven years of fighting.

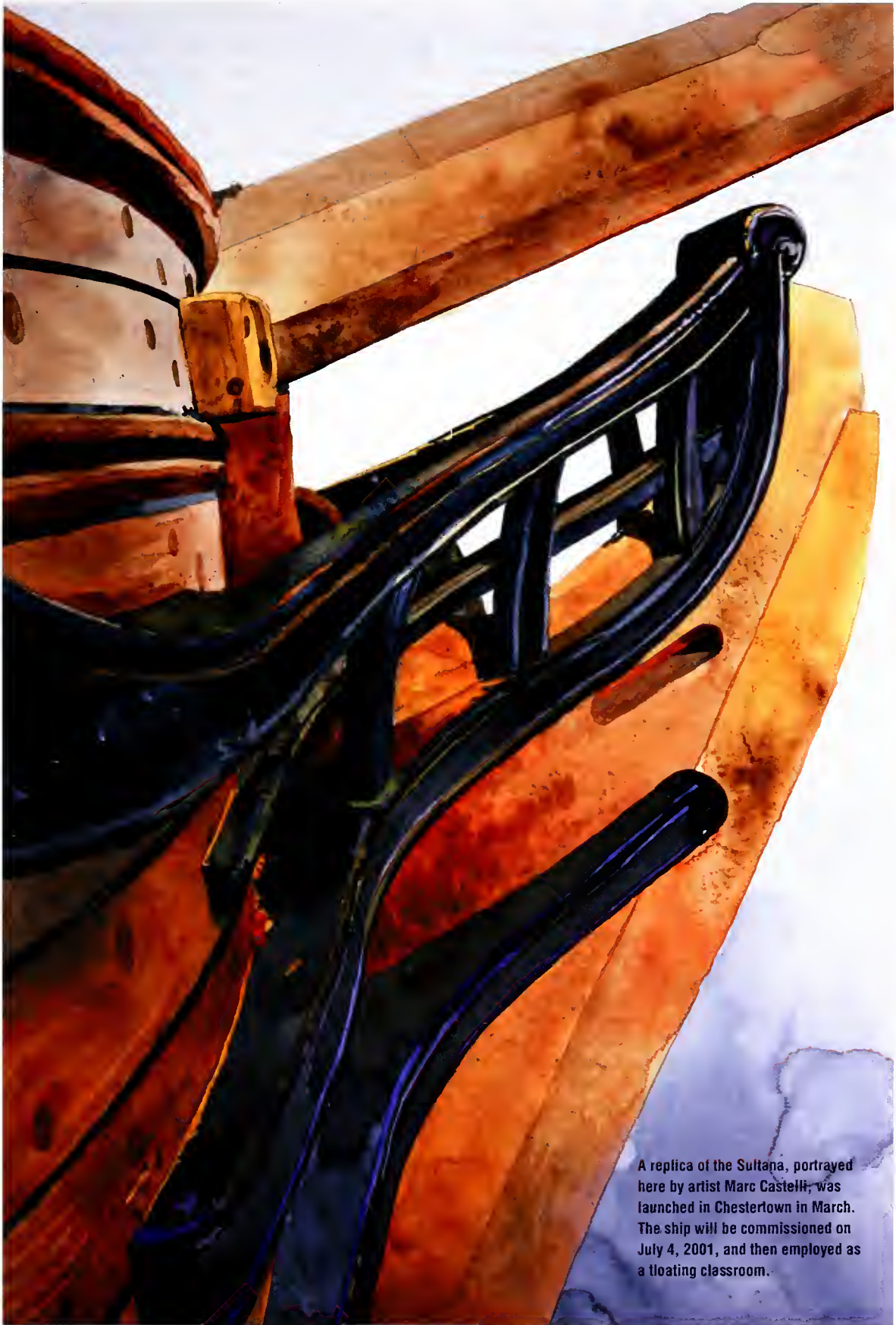
In order to bring money into the Treasury, the Royal Navy was charged with aiding in the enforcement of the Navigation Acts, which consisted of duties on many goods imported into the colonies. American merchants responded to what

they considered to be unfair taxes by evading customs officials and smuggling prohibited items on smaller coasting vessels. In 1764, the British Admiralty purchased six small American-built schooners to patrol the shallower waters preferred by smugglers. More vessels were needed and, four years later, a schooner built at the Boston shipyard of Benjamin Hallowell was sailed to England, where it was purchased and refitted for service on the North American Station.

This is the story of His Majesty's Armed Schooner *Sultana*, as told through logbook entries that begin in London at Deptford Dock, one of the largest naval yards in England.

B Y   K E E S   D E   M O O Y   ' 0 1





A replica of the Sultana, portrayed here by artist Marc Castelli, was launched in Chestertown in March. The ship will be commissioned on July 4, 2001, and then employed as a floating classroom.

"KNEE OF THE HEAD," WATERCOLOR, © MARC CASTELLI

JULY 18, 1768. Lying in Deptford Dock. Moderate & Fair Weather. People employed getting the Iron Ballast on board the Schooner.

On July 15, Captain John Inglis, an American-born Lieutenant in the Royal Navy, began the work of readying the *Sultana* for its mission in the colonies. As his crew of 24 men arrived over the course of several weeks, he had them install and rig new sails, build a brick ship stove and caulk the deck. Provisions including barrels of Irish Sea bass, fresh beef, salted tongue, peas, bread, cheese, raisins and vinegar were stored in the hold. Casks of beer and brandy, the preferred beverages of sailors, were likewise stowed away. Eight swivel guns were mounted on the sides of the schooner, and muskets, pistols and powder were brought below. On September 1, the *Sultana* steered out of the River Thames and sailed westward across the Atlantic.

NOVEMBER 16, 1768. Moored in Boston harbor, the Long Wharf WSW one Cable's length. First part Moderate & Cloudy with Rain. Middle & Later parts Strong Gales & Cloudy. At 7 AM Manned Ship for General Gage Going on board of the Romney as did all the Ships of the Fleet. The Boats Employed in Landing the Troops out of the Transports.

After a rough voyage lasting several harrowing weeks, during which the schooner nearly capsized, Captain Inglis and his men arrived in Boston Harbor. Several months earlier, customs officials had seized John Hancock's sloop *Liberty* on suspicion of smuggling, causing fierce riots to erupt in the city. The insurgency led to an increased British naval presence and the landing of two regiments of British soldiers in October. With tensions running high, two additional regiments were sent by transports from Ireland. Treated as foreign occupiers, the soldiers frequently clashed with Bostonians, culminating in the Boston Massacre of March 1770.

DECEMBER 25, 1768. Newport Harbor. Moderate & Clear. Seized the Royal Charlotte Brig with 6 Cases of Gin. At \_ past went on board the Brig & Found the Customhouse officer on Shore. Seized the Brig with all her tackling & Left an officer on board with 3 men & nailed up her hatches for the Benefit of his Majesty & heirs.

From Boston, Captain Inglis was ordered to sail to Rhode Island, a hotbed of smugglers. One week after anchoring near Newport,

Captain Inglis spotted a brig surreptitiously unloading crates of gin near shore. The captain of the Royal Charlotte was unable to provide proper documentation, so his ship was seized according to maritime law. The day before, New-

port Customhouse officials had boarded the brig and had placed one of their men on board, but he was bribed and put ashore. The Newport Customhouse and the *Sultana* filed competing court claims against the *Royal Charlotte*, which drove up costs to the point where neither party stood to profit. The ship was returned to its owners after two months of legal wrangling, during which only the gin was condemned. Colonists and merchants grew emboldened by legal victories such as this.

APRIL 1, 1769. Moored in Rhode Island Harbor. Fresh breezes. Received from the Senegal half a Cord of wood. Broke one of the boat oars by Accident. Prince Gould, a black man entered on board.

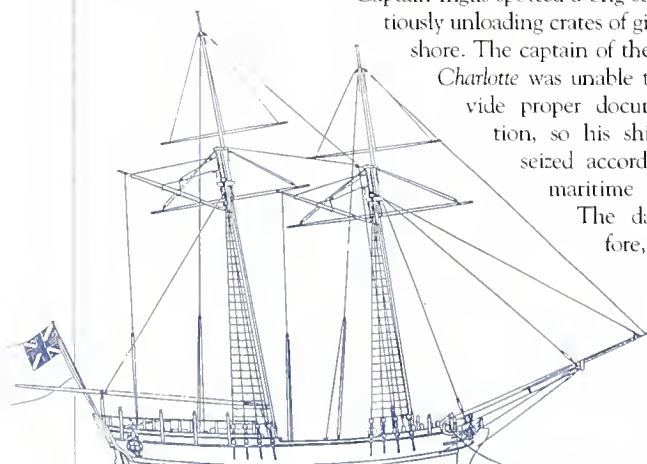
Keeping his schooner manned was a constant problem for Captain Inglis. Cramped quarters and miserable working conditions caused sailors to run away at an alarming rate. Multiracial crews became common. Prince Gould, a 45-year-old free African American, volunteered to serve on the *Sultana* following the escape of several crewmen. When Gould came on board, he was discovered to have a herniated abdomen. The combination of advanced age (most sailors were in their teens and twenties) and medical disability limited his effectiveness. However, he served ably for eight months before being discharged in Virginia.

OCTOBER 7, 1769. Moored in Hampton Road, Virginia. Strong breezes and Cloudy. Sent the boats to search two Vessels within the Capes. Boarded a brig from Leith with coal bound to Norfolk. Sent the Cutter to Hampton for sweet water & in coming off she was upset & the said water was lost & no part of them could be saved, being some time before the people were discovered hanging to the boat.

From September 1769 to August 1770, the *Sultana* was stationed near the mouth of Chesapeake Bay. The Bay's watershed was recognized as one of the most commercially advantageous regions in the world and drew many settlers to its shores. By 1770, more than 750,000 people had flocked there to take advantage of its fertile lands and well-stocked waters. While patrolling Chesapeake Bay, the *Sultana's* crew stopped and searched nearly 150 vessels in weather conditions that could turn dangerous very quickly. On this particular day, the schooner's cutter capsized in rough waters, nearly drowning several men who were on their way back from shore with six large leather containers of fresh water.

JULY 13, 1770. Smith Point SW 3 Leagues. Light breezes and cloudy. At 2 PM set the topsails, at 10 PM came to Anchor with the small bower in 9 fathoms water. Going down to Potomac River in company with the Boston.

Accompanied by H.M.S. *Boston*, the *Sultana* sailed up the Potomac and anchored near Belvoir, the estate of George William Fairfax. Next door to Belvoir was Mount Vernon, the home of Fairfax's friend George Washington, who at this time was a powerful member of the Virginia House of Burgesses. On July 29, Washington invited Inglis and his pilot, David Bruce, to dinner. Interested in meeting an American captain of a Royal Navy vessel, Washington also knew John Inglis' brother Samuel, a prominent Norfolk merchant who was in partnership with Robert Morris, the future financier of the American Revolution. The *Sultana* returned to its station in Hampton Road after two weeks in the Potomac River.





NOVEMBER 23, 1770. Fishers Island ENE 4 miles. Cloudy & Hazy thick weather. At 11 AM Boarded the Polly Sloop Bound to Dartmouth with Ballast & Some Provisions & the Greyhound Sloop with wood to Nantucket Island. At 2 PM aired the sails. The people Employed Looking out for the two Sloop which were to Come From Amsterdam with Contraband Goods.

Admiral Gambier, the commander of the Royal Navy in North America, learned in early November that a large shipment of illicit tea was headed to New York from Holland. He ordered Inglis to block the northern approach to New York by patrolling between Fishers Island and Montauk Point on Long Island. For two weeks the *Sultana* sailed back and forth, stopping and searching a variety of vessels. However, the two sloops evaded the blockade and safely offloaded their cargos in New York. Furious at the ease with which his blockade was eluded, Gambier appealed to the British Admiralty for additional schooners, but his request was not fulfilled.

APRIL 12, 1771. Anchored in Newport Harbor. Hard gales & Cloudy Weather. At 4 PM Manned and armed the Boat to go on Shore to Assist the Collector of His Majesty's Customs at Rhode Island. He Seized a Brig that was running their Cargo, & the Mob gathered & beat him, & threatened to pull down the Custom house & Seize on the King's property.

In the week prior to the *Sultana's* arrival, a Newport customs official had attempted to seize the brig *Polly* for carrying contraband goods. Knocked unconscious and dragged into town by a mob, the customs official barely escaped with his life. The attackers returned and emptied out the suspected ship, then tarred and feathered a suspected informant. When the *Sultana* appeared several days later to transport a chest of customs revenues to Boston, the mob reassembled and threatened to destroy the Newport Customhouse. Inglis responded to the crisis by sending 14 heavily armed men to shore in the cutter. A tense standoff ensued, but order was eventually restored. Two days later, the king's money was taken on board the *Sultana* and delivered to the Custom Commissioner in Boston.

SEPTEMBER 10, 1771. Anchored off New Castle on Delaware. Light breezes with Cloudy & rain. At 4 PM Read the Articles of War to the Schooner's Company. Punished Henry Black & Robert Whaley with 2 dozen lashes each for absenting themselves from their duty & attempting to run away.

The *Articles of War* stipulated the penalties for 36 shipboard offenses. Sailors accused of cursing, drunkenness, dereliction of duty, sleeping while on watch, disobeying an order, desertion or mutiny were liable to be penalized with 12 to 100 lashes, or death in extreme cases. Sailors Henry Black and Robert Whaley tried to make their escape from the *Sultana's* cutter when it was sent to Gloucester for supplies. They were apprehended by local authorities and spent the night in jail. Led back to the schooner in chains, the two men were tied to the mainmast with their arms over their heads, then whipped with a cat-o'-nine-tails in front of the entire crew. In May 1772, Henry Black fell and drowned while boarding a ship that had been stopped in the Delaware River. Four months later, Whaley escaped from the *Sultana* while it was anchored near Philadelphia.

MAY 8, 1772. Delaware River. Strong Gales and Squally. Going down the River in pursuit of the Brig that brought in Prohibited Wine. In Company with the King George Customhouse boat. Boarded the Said Brig, and found on board her some empty wine & brandy Casks. Seized her on Suspicion.

Acting on a tip, the *Sultana* crew pursued and seized the brig *Carolina* on suspicion of smuggling. Inglis placed his midshipman and six sailors on the prize and began to escort the vessel to the Philadelphia Customhouse. A boisterous crowd formed on shore and threatened to attack the *Sultana*. Fearing a rescue attempt, Inglis ordered his gunner to load six swivel cannon with grape shot. Fortunately, tide and wind cooperated to keep the *Sultana* and its prize out of harm's way. Another Royal Navy ship arrived on the scene and helped to get the brig safely to Philadelphia. One month later, the *Sultana's* crew was paid prize money stemming from the condemnation of the *Carolina*, the only recorded bounty paid during more than four years of service.

OCTOBER 23, 1772. Cape Race NNE \_ E 49 Leagues. Hard Gales & Squally with rain. A great deal of Sea from the WSW board. At 2 PM Shipped a Sea. Filled the boat. Washed away the Companion & overset the binnacle. Laid the Schooner on her beam ends. Cut away the boat and let her go overboard to save the schooner. She righted.

In mid-October 1772, after 54 months of service on the coast of North America, Inglis was ordered to sail the *Sultana* back to England. Admiral Montagu stated that the schooner was "too small and not able to encounter the heavy Gales of wind, especially in the Winter Season." One week into the trans-Atlantic journey, heavy swells engulfed the *Sultana*, pushing it over on its side. The cutter was thrown into the sea and pulled the schooner further downward. A quick-thinking crewman released the cutter, allowing the schooner to float upright, thereby saving the lives of all on board. Attempts to dry out the hold and its content were prevented by heavy winds and rain that followed the schooner all the way back to England.

DECEMBER 7, 1772. Moored in Portsmouth Harbor. Moderate and hazy with drifting rain. Paid the Schooner's Company their wages.

The *Sultana* finally arrived on the coast of England after an exhausting six-week voyage. When the schooner was forced to wait one week before entering the Portsmouth shipyard, storm seas broke over the deck and filled the hold yet again. At last the schooner was escorted into dock, where it was stripped of sails, rigging and supplies. On December 7, Inglis made the last entry in his logbook. The men were paid off and then transferred to other ships in the harbor. Worn out by his ordeal in the colonies, Inglis left the Royal Navy and traveled to Scotland to recuperate. On August 11, 1773, the *Sultana* was sold at auction to John Hook Jr. for £85, less than one-third of the original purchase price. The eventual fate of the schooner is unknown, but it most likely spent the next few years along the coast of England as a trading vessel before succumbing to damage sustained in the American colonies. ▀

*Kees de Mooy, a former contractor, was always fascinated by the history of the buildings he worked on. Chestertown's Sultana Project provided him the impetus to donate his carpenter tools to the effort and to complete his degree in history.*

# Sons of the Chesapeake

*"I cannot escape my backwoods roots that bound me to tell these stories.*

*Being born and raised on the Eastern Shore,*

*I grew up with an instinctive respect for the land and the waters.*

*Where I come from, people are fishermen and farmers, watermen and small business owners. And although we have our own misgivings and greed and pride concerning the Chesapeake Bay and our farms, there is a desire to be exactly where we are.*

*If we know anything, we know where home is."*



PHOTO MELISSA GRIMES-GUY

So Stephanie Fowler, winner of the 2001 Sophie Kerr Prize, introduces the reader to a collection of stories that sprang from the "dark waters and cypress swamps and hard weather" that define her home. What follows are excerpts from one of those essays that melds history with imagination, "Sons of the Chesapeake." In this tale, Fowler has meticulously recounted the political history of the infamous "Oyster Wars" that pitted waterman against waterman, while conveying the personal tragedy it caused one Crisfield family.

B Y S T E P H A N I E F O W L E R ' 0 1



## Orphans by the Bay

**J**OHN PAUL NELSON was playing baseball in the streets with the other neighborhood boys when he lost everything. The boy was a true son of Crisfield. His blonde hair, nearly white, was cropped short to the back of his tan neck and his thick accent held slight intonations of the Smith Islanders who still spoke in near-perfect and antiquated Shakespearean English. John Paul was 11 that summer of 1949. The days were humid, but for the little white-haired boy, the days were as long as they were hot. Three months earlier, he had lost his mother to tuberculosis.

When his mother passed, John Paul, the fourth of six children, became mute. He did not speak to anyone as he tried desperately to mend himself. His older brothers, Earl Jr., Gene and Royce, did their best to make their beautiful brother smile. They took him to the docks to fish, but all John Paul could remember was his mother's wasting away. Earl Jr. and Royce had not been there to witness her dying. Earl Jr. was married and lived far away in Brooklyn, near Baltimore, and Royce lived near him. Gene had come home from the military in 1947, and lived in Crisfield working jobs around the small town, and John Paul took comfort in the visits of his older brother. The older boys didn't know what she had looked like or what she sounded like in the middle of the night when he feared they would all die with her. They had not seen her pale and wasted, unrecognizable as their mother. John Paul had seen it all.

His mother was pregnant when she got tuberculosis. The doctor said that the baby was pushing against her lungs and that slowed down the disease, but once the baby girl was born, it took control of her lungs and she died within the year. Life at home was difficult for John Paul. His father, Earl Sr., spent his time divided between tending to his sick wife, caring for the baby and going to work. He was a Crisfield police officer and part-time waterman. John Paul was alone, except for his little brother David, who was four years old, so he spent most of his time watching over David. But still John

Paul was alone with a dying mother, a busy father and siblings too young to know any better.

After the funeral, Earl Sr. needed help. He was 50 years old, his wife was gone, and his children were suffering. His oldest son offered to take the baby girl, Dorcas, back home with him to Brooklyn and take care of her until he got back on his feet. Earl agreed and his daughter left Crisfield a few days after the funeral.

But for John Paul, the passing of his mother had interrupted the natural flow from the freshness of spring to the excite-

feed his family. He navigated the choppy waters of the Chesapeake to a familiar crabbing spot near Foxe's Island in the Pocomoke Sound, a place that lay dangerously close to the invisible boundary line between Maryland and Virginia. He kept his boat running perpendicular to the north side of the island, being sure to stay in Maryland waters. There he settled in for a morning of blue crabs and endless bay.

There were many other watermen out on the bay. The early morning was warm and sunny, a waterman's delight. Many

others had motored out to crab near Foxe's Island. Earl had been on the water for about two hours when he noticed a mechanical buzz overhead. A dark seaplane circled over his boat, and then landed 50 feet away. Earl watched as the plane turned toward his boat and chugged across the waves. As it approached, the words "Virginia Fisheries Police" were visible on its metal side.

The seaplane carefully sidled up to Earl's boat and a young deputy popped open the tiny metal door. Holding a rifle, he boarded the boat.

Above the diesel churning of the seaplane, Earl said, "What kin I do for ya?"

The deputy stood in the center of Earl's boat. His hard blue eyes scanned the boat and locked on the bushel of crabs. "You can turn your boat off and put back your

catch."

"Why? What's the problem?" Earl studied the man on his boat. His uniform tag read, "Acree." There was another person inside the seaplane, and he figured it must've been the pilot.

"I can see from your boat numbers that you're a Marylander. These here are Virginia waters, and I'm ordering you to cease and desist." His eyes narrowed on the 50-year-old Crisfielder.

Earl said nothing. He wiped his brow with a dirty red handkerchief.

"We're going to Saxis, Virginia. I'm confiscating this boat."

A hearty laugh burst forth from the barrel chest of Earl Nelson. It was an age-old feud: Marylanders and Virginians argued over the state line, which cut an invisible line through the dark waters of the Chesapeake Bay. Neither side wanted the other to sneak across the border and

**John Paul threw his bike down and ran to the wooden edge, pushing his way through the crowd of men and straining his eyes in bright sun to make sure his father was alive and well. But what he saw that day on the docks changed his life forever.**

ment of the summer. Gene helped around the house and tried to get John Paul to come around, but Gene was a quiet young man, pensive and reserved. The brothers, unfortunately, never talked much and John Paul still felt very much alone in the small house full of sad men and unhappy children.

Three months after her death, John Paul was beginning to welcome the warm days like July 5 because he got a chance at just being a boy again. About noon, the baseball game was well underway on a familiar side street. A skinny boy with red hair and burnt brown freckles ran up to John Paul. "Somebody's shot your daddy!"

**E**ARL NELSON had gone out on his 26-foot scraping boat early that morning to go crabbing. Like a true Crisfielder, Nelson worked the bay waters to help

steal oysters, crabs, fish, and clams. No, Earl Nelson wasn't going to give into the fight because he was well aware of his position. He knew he was in Maryland waters. If he let Acree take him to Saxis, he knew he'd lose his boat for sure and be fined heavily in the process.

"Something funny?" Acree shifted his weight back and forth. His dark hair and chiseled jaws gave him the look of a strong canine.

Earl continued laughing. "You've got to be kiddin' me, son. We're narth of Foxe's Island. I ain't doin' a damn thing wrong. And you sure as hell ain't takin' my boat." He turned his back to the young deputy.

"I'm taking this boat whether you like it or not." Acree's voice lowered in a growl.

"Git off my boat, kid," he yelled over his shoulder. "You know we're in Merland."

Sweat beaded up on Acree's brow and slipped down his tanned face, cutting sharp angles on his cheekbones and chin. He shifted his weight again and again. His fingers slipped down the barrel of the gun and his sweaty palms rubbed against the hot metal. He stared at the back of the old crabber who had laughed in his face and defied his authority. Everything in him wanted to strike out in defense of his job, his state and his manhood. Acree had served four years in the United States Navy in submarine duty, and he returned to the area to work as a crop duster. He had seen men like this hard crabber before: men who fight tooth and nail for weather beaten, financial sink-holes they call their boats. His Navy training and his duty to his job reminded him to stay focused, but something else bubbled up inside of him like air pockets escaping through hot asphalt. White reflections from the bay burned into his eyes and lit his short-fused temper. The crabber continued to laugh.

Acree's rifle lurched forward and a bullet tore through the lower abdomen of Earl Nelson. The force slammed the old waterman's body forward against the wheel, and he grabbed hold of it. His body slumped over the wheel and fell to the side. Earl put his hands over the conjoining space where his hip and groin met his abdomen; his eyes met the blue spots on the deputy's face. Acree, without

a word, stalked off the boat and jumped into the seaplane.

The blood came up between Earl's fingers and he heard the plane take off. Suddenly, the sun was the hottest it had ever felt and Earl closed his eyes.

Watermen near Foxe's Island had been watching the Virginia Fisheries plane with anxious eyes. The feud made everyone nervous, and over the past couple of months, a few men had been shot over the same problem in the lower Potomac. The watermen nearby had witnessed the shooting and rushed to Earl's boat. The

**A little water slipped to the top of  
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first men to his boat were Tom Marshall and Calvin Marsh Jr., both Smith Islanders. As they climbed aboard the boat, they found him bleeding from the front and back, and barely alive. Nelson's blood stained the entire boat — the deck, the sidewalls, and the wheel, even the compass. A little water slipped to the top of the deck and mixed with the blood, and like a phantom paintbrush, it coated the deck of the workboat with a bright red mucus. Each man stared at the ghastly mess. Neither would see anything like it again.

Tom Marshall grabbed the bloody wheel and started back to Crisfield while Calvin Marsh dropped to his knees and pressed his rough hands over the open holes in the old crabber's body.

"Help me," he whispered.

The waterman nodded. He watched as Nelson's sad gray eyes slowly closed and

his barrel chest stopped rising. When the boat docked in Crisfield, Earl Nelson was pronounced dead, the three youngest children pronounced orphans.

JOHN PAUL and several of his friends raced on their bicycles to the Bradshaw Funeral Home, the place where his mother was kept before she was taken to the cemetery. If his daddy was dead, then that must be where he could find him. If his daddy really was dead, then he had to see for himself.

The front doors of the funeral home were large glass doors. His hands formed a periscope around his eyes as he peered in the front door. The place was so dark inside; he couldn't make out anything. A tall man with a dark suit opened the door, and asked John Paul if he needed something.

"Yes. Some Virginia policeman shot my daddy. And I'd...I'd like to see him."

The tall man explained as best as he could that his father was not yet with him. He was sorry that he couldn't help him. The young boy looked familiar to him.

John Paul stared blankly at the tall man in the dark suit. If he wasn't inside lying on a table, then where was he?

"I'm sorry, son, I don't know how I can help you." With that, John Paul simply turned and got back on his bicycle.

"I'm gonna go have a look at my daddy's boat." John Paul and the boys headed for the wharf.

When John Paul reached the docks, he saw his father's boat moored against the old wooden pilings of the lower wharf. John Paul threw his bike down and ran to the wooden edge, pushing his way through the crowd of men and straining his eyes in bright sun to make sure his father was alive and well. But what John Paul saw that day on the docks changed his life forever. The boat was awash in blood and his father lay like a carelessly gutted fish in the arms of another waterman.

MORE THAN 400 PEOPLE attended the viewing of Earl Lee Nelson as all of Crisfield, Somerset County, and other local towns turned out to pay their respects. Two reverends and a full choir presided over his open casket service.



The six children were all present: Earl Jr. with baby Dorcas, Gene, Royce, John Paul and David, who had recently turned five years old. Each son took his turn at his father's side for one last time.

Earl Jr. held his baby sister in his arms as they both stared down at their father. When he walked away, Dorcas stared back at Earl Sr.'s calm face.

David walked alone to his father's casket. He stood on the tips of his shiny black shoes to peer at his father and then, as though he understood everything, he turned to the choir with tears streaming down his face that looked so much like his dead father's. No one moved as he turned back toward his father's casket. A little ledge provided him with footing enough to peer down inside. He choked and wailed as he nudged his father with his small hands. At last, David hoisted himself over the edge of the casket and curled up on top of his father's chest, his white-blond head underneath his father's stiff chin. A lady came forward and picked him up out of the casket as he screamed for his dead father.

Then there was silence.

John Paul was the last to look. He slowly took each step to the casket. His mother had just been here, had just looked like this. When he reached his father for the last time, he felt something tear inside his young body. The onlookers watched as John Paul finally burst into tears and slumped over the casket; grief pulled him to his knees. A few people rushed to the child, and helped him back to his seat. Nelson's best friend, a weathered old crabber from Crisfield, sang hymns as they closed the service.

When they arrived at the Sunnyridge Memorial Park where Earl was to be buried next to his wife, David was the first out of the car. Walking up to the burial site, David turned and asked, "What's all these pretty flowers for?"

His question was met with silence. Earl Jr. took his brother's hand and led him to the closed casket. The brothers stood close to each other, uncertain, devastated and angry, with bowed heads as the last of their parents was lowered into the ground.

## Drawing Lines in the Salt

THE FUNERAL of Earl Nelson was only the beginning. The incident sparked a heated flare-up in an old debate between the states of Maryland and Virginia that had been ongoing for more than 150 years. The tension had finally reached a horrible climax. ...

Up and down the Chesapeake, there was gunfire and bloodshed, especially when the oyster boom of the 1880s hit. Watermen fiercely protected their rights and their beds. Each state was easy on

ate loyalties that destroyed lives. So much has resulted from this body of water that lies in the middle of two states, with its arms and legs that stretch out at its sides and entangle the lands of Maryland and Virginia.

The watermen of the Chesapeake are a dying breed. Few men can now fully recall the days when thousands of oyster rigs jammed the Tangier Sound, tonging for their fill of the sweet and salty shellfish. No longer do the watermen mount machine guns on their bows, ready to stake their lives for their harvest. The sad, desperate irony of their situation is

that they have put themselves in this position – the bay's plentiful harvests were not going to last an eternity, but the rapacious harvests continued with a blatant disregard for the future of their industry and, more importantly, the future of the Chesapeake.

The remaining watermen of the Chesapeake Bay rise every morning and greet the dawn on the bows of battered workboats. Their day will start earlier than the ones their forefathers saw, and their days will end long after their ancestors would have docked. But still they fight with hands thick in salt-white calluses, and their burned faces still carry the sun-bleached beards of their grandfathers. Their loyalty to this never-ending work exceeds the length of light scattered by the waves, and their frustration with the looming end of their business will outlive even their grandchildren.

But the Chesapeake Bay will continue to reach into the heart of the land, and race into the Atlantic down by the Capes, sweeping past towns and cities and trying to mask its bounty below. Marylanders and Virginians, when they stand out on beaches and sandy points, inexplicably feel the infliction of decades of trauma and when they turn their backs on the cold waters of the Chesapeake they feel lost. After all, the tragedy of the Chesapeake is one that belongs to us all, each and every one, to the last. ▀

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its reported misfits, most troublemakers got away with a small fine and a slap on the wrist. Maryland and Virginia were not interested in punishing their own men; they were interested in crucifying the enemy. The harvests were rapacious. Even oyster policemen were caught stealing and dredging illegally.

## To The Last

AN OLD SAYING exists among the remaining watermen: "If a man found the very last oyster in the Chesapeake, he'd gladly sell it to you." Truly, this is the saddest story of self-defeat yet told.

For centuries of time and generations of people, the Chesapeake Bay has been the central backbone of Maryland's and Virginia's culture. It has served as a provider for living while awakening passion-

*Stephanie Fowler intends to spend the coming months researching and writing more stories of the Eastern Shore, and then endeavoring to have her book of stories published.*

# IN SEARCH OF *a family's* HISTORY

JACOB RITZLER, AN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES MAJOR, recently traveled to Slovakia and the Czech Republic to piece together the tapestry of his family history. While he discovered the roots of the Stiefel family, he also found a disturbing continuation of anti-Semitism and the disappearance of Jewish identity among the new generation of Slovakia.

**F**ORTY-SEVEN MEMBERS of my grandfather's family were killed in the Holocaust; my grandfather, Frantisek Stiefel, and his two brothers, Mikalaus and Tibor, were the only survivors from the immediate family. When my grandfather died in 1999 and his brother Mikalaus died in 2000, I decided to chronicle as much of the Stiefel family history as possible. It was then that I conceived of the Junior Fellows research project that would take me to Slovakia, the Czech Republic, and Poland in search of the stories of my family. With a video camera and a few words of Czech (*pivo* means beer and *zачot* means bathroom), I boarded a plane for Prague on December 18, 2000.

I spent my first night in Eastern Europe on an overnight train in a cabin the size of closet, with two Slovaks who did not

understand English. The next morning, I arrived in the town of Kosice in the eastern area of Slovakia. There a distant relative met me and brought me to her family's house. Strangely, I experienced no sense of culture shock. With my Slovakian relatives, I felt as though I was back in my grandparents' home. By far the happiest person to see me was my grandfather's Aunt Truda. She cried when I came, she cried when I left, she even cried while I was there. A survivor of Auschwitz, Aunt Truda was so happy to realize that she still had more family somewhere in the world.

I realized later that there was another reason why Truda cried. She saw in me a future generation of Jews who are proud of being Jewish. One of my cousins told me a story that explains what Truda felt. One day, Truda was walking with one of her granddaughters in the town center. As they passed the small

BY JACOB RITZLER '01



remnants of the local Jewish community center, her granddaughter turned to her and said, "I'm glad that I'm not Jewish." Truda, a survivor of the concentration camps, was surely devastated by the fact that some of her grandchildren did not even understand that they *are* Jewish. All of Truda's grandchildren knew that she was Jewish and that she had escaped from Auschwitz, but Truda's daughter had raised her children without any knowledge of their background or identity. So whenever Truda saw me, she cried.

It was nice to meet my family, but I was there with a purpose. With the help of my grandmother, I had put together a list of possible contacts. Fortunately, Truda knew many of the people on my list; unfortunately, many of them were dead. Starting with Truda, I began my interviews. I traveled to the neighboring town of Vranov, where my family had lived for 200 years. There I found the house where my grandfather was born and raised. I also found a 96-year-old neighbor, who drank like a fish but still remembered the family. As I was introduced to some more people, the picture of what happened to my family slowly came together.

In Eastern Slovakia, I learned that my great-grandfather, Dezidor, was a best friend of the first President of Czechoslovakia and was the President of the Slovakian Social Democrats Party. He was one of the first people to be taken into custody by the Germans. He was imprisoned not for his religious beliefs, but because he was a socialist. After Dezidor's capture, four of the eight children fled. Uncle Mike stayed to watch his mother and three younger siblings. My grandfather, Alexander, Tibor, and Ludvig scattered to different areas of Slovakia.

Only three years later, Tibor was in Israel, Alexander had died fighting in the 1943 Slovak uprising, Ludvig had disappeared,

and Dezidor had been released from the political prison, only to be taken to Auschwitz. There, he was shot trying to carry a fellow prisoner who could no longer walk. My great-grandmother and her two daughters were taken to Auschwitz in 1942 and immediately killed. At 17, the youngest brother, Tomas, was killed during the uprising. He had been taken prisoner and forced to dig a mass grave where he and his friends were burned and then buried.

Uncle Mike and my grandfather were lucky they both joined the Slovak army, but they were immediately transferred to labor camps. The brothers were in two different camps, but during the Slovak uprising they were able to organize revolts in their camps and escape to fight in the northern mountains of Slovakia. Neither saw each other during the war; they only heard of one another's exploits. Uncle Mike became a spy, while my grandfather rose to the rank of captain, independently commanding a small group of partisans. It was a position that led to his becoming a high member in the Czechoslovakian Communist Party, and then to his running from the disapproval of the party to take refuge in the United States (where, ironically enough, he became a Republican).

These were the stories I heard from my family's old friends, who also led me to the cemetery in Vranov where many of my ancestors are buried. Today, it is still being ransacked by anti-Semites and grave robbers who come to vandalize, steal from corpses that are buried with no worldly possessions, or take the

**Left, Frantisek Stiefel, Jacob Ritzler's grandfather, was President of the Town Council for Karlovy Vary and a police commissioner for the Czech area of northwestern Czechoslovakia. He is pictured here in September 1948 in Prague, where he was attending a political meeting.**

**Below, Pavel and Mary Eizelt, a Catholic couple in Bratislava, hid Frantisek Stiefel and his family from the Nazis for a year. Stiefel worked for the Eizelts in 1943 under false papers, using the name Frantisek Schuliter. Today, Bratislava is the capital of Slovakia. On the previous page, Lily and Anna Stietel (at far left), Ritzler's great-aunts, are pictured here in 1941 with a group of other Jewish girls from Vranov. In 1942, the Stietel girls and their mother were taken to Auschwitz, where they died.**



headstones to resell them. Luckily, I was able to provide the groundskeeper with the names of a few organizations in the United States that may be able to help preserve this Jewish cemetery that is over 250 years old.

I left Slovakia with a greater understanding of the history of my family, but my next stop—Auschwitz—left me with no understanding of humanity. What happened in that concentration camp defies comprehension. I walked its paths and buildings and crematoriums, and I videotaped it all. The only thought that kept coming to me was that this could have been me. I could have been one of those children, producing drawings of dragons breathing fire in representation of the crematoriums. I could have been in my great-grandfather's place, and I am not sure I could have been as brave as he was, brave enough to try to help another prisoner, knowing it would mean possible death. I am not sure I would have had the strength my grandfather had not only to escape, but also to fight for his homeland. I could hope that I would be that brave, but it might not have mattered, because had I been alive at that time, they would have killed me because I am Jewish.

As I traveled from Poland to Prague and then around the rest of the Czech Republic, I gathered information about the later half of my grandfather's life in the Czechoslovakian government and his escape to the United States. I visited more friends of my grandfather's family, and I learned of some distant relatives who had moved to the United States. The story came together, and today it is nearly all written down. It is not much, but it is more than existed about my family a few months ago.

My grandfather only told small parts of his story, but I remember them vividly. Sometimes his voice trembled. Sometimes his eyes watered as he described his little sisters. Sometimes he looked fierce. Sometimes he looked at me and did not say a word, but he always told his tales with pride. Now I am the storyteller. I have put myself in his place, taken up his voice, and pass his stories, my stories, along. ▀

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*Jacob Ritzler's video project was supported with a grant from the Society of Junior Fellows.*

## The Uprising

by Jacob Ritzler

**S**tories began to circulate about death camps. We heard that those Jews who had been "relocated" were sent to labor camps if they were lucky, and to death camps if they were not. We all considered ourselves prisoners now; we were still alive only because there were some generals in the Slovak government who were not anti-Semites. Up until that point we were protected. That knowledge did not make life in the camps any more bearable. We worked 18 hours a day—sometimes roadwork, sometimes work on the canals. Once we were taken to a munitions factory, but we were immediately sent away, because we could not be trusted to work with arms that would be carried by German soldiers. So, we resumed our labor in the winter cold.

As months past and summer came, rumors were rampant. The name "Auschwitz" was on everybody's lips. Some talked late into the night about a resistance that was forming in the forest and mountain areas of the High Tatras in the north. I was one of those who dreamed of resistance, and in the early weeks of July, I made contact with a friend. He had managed to buy false papers and was living under an assumed name. In contact with the resistance in the north, he brought information to the camp every week. An attack was being planned.

One day in August, that day came. Sounds of rifle fire were coming from town. A German soldier drove into camp and spoke with the commandant, who immediately dispatched guards to the town. It was already evening and our unit was in the barracks.

Earlier, my friend had managed to sneak a pistol into the camp, which we concealed under a loose floorboard in the barrack. Realizing this might be my

only chance to escape, I gathered 22 men who I knew would follow me and we snuck from our barrack, left unguarded because so many guards had been sent to quell the disturbance in the town. We were unarmed, weak and underfed, but we were desperate. We had played out the scenario of this possibility over and over again. We knew that our only hope lay in taking the guards' barracks and commandeering as many weapons as possible.

It worked perfectly. We made our way to the Commandant's office. There were no soldiers nearby, and before he realized it we had him tied up and my gun was pointed at his head. We marched him into the barracks and made him tell the four guards still there to hand over their weapons. Unarmed, the guards ran before any of the prisoners could think of revenge. I locked the Commandant in a storage room and took my men back out into the camp. We were still 22 men, but with only nine guns. After a sweep of the camp, we managed to free all 100 prisoners and subdue the other six guards who had been left behind.

In town, we came upon the guards from camp. Again, we were able to overcome them and take their guns. Of the 100 prisoners, 40 were still following me. The others had scattered. That night we ran for the woods. We agreed to find the partisan forces to the north and join them in their fight against the Nazis.

After a few days, we came upon a unit. It was motley mix of men from all of Europe. There were Russians, Czechs, Slovaks, Poles, Hungarians, and even a few French men who had escaped concentration camps. Nearly half of them were Jewish. We joined them, for we were not fighting for our country, but for our lives.



## ALUMNI UPDATE

## Wickedly Wonderful Reunion Came This Way

**D**ESPITE THE last-minute cancellation of writer Ray Bradbury, Reunion 2001 activities strove to live up to this year's Bradbury-inspired theme—Something Wicked (-ly Wonderful) This Way Comes. Alumni, seniors, families and friends enjoyed a full weekend of activities ranging from walking tours to boat trips on the Chester River.

The Life After Liberal Arts seminar highlighted the accomplishments of Kevin Noblet '75, a veteran journalist whose teams of international reporters won two Pulitzer Prizes for the Associated Press, and Tammy Tiehel Stedman '86, an Academy Award-winning film producer.

For many, the highlight of the weekend was settling into Tawes Theater to watch "My Mother Dreams the Satan's Disciples in New

York," the acclaimed film Stedman produced. Viewers of all ages enjoyed the thrill of holding Stedman's Oscar, which she passed around the audience. "It's always a party favorite," she said.

Chilly temperatures and the threat of rain forced the picnic and the dinner/dance into the Johnson Lifetime Fitness Center. Despite the change in venue, both events drew record crowds. ▀

## Denton And Flato Elected To Board

**A**T THE ANNUAL breakfast meeting in May, the Alumni Association members unanimously approved the slate of new officers as presented by Susan Stobbart Shapiro '91,



College President John Toll greets Ermyrn Jewell Heck '24, the oldest alumna to attend Reunion festivities.

Association President, and welcomed two new alumni-elected trustees.

John Flato '69 and Susan Thomas Denton '69 were elected to six-year terms on the Board of Visitors and Governors, beginning July 1, 2001. Denton, who was re-elected to a second term, is President of Denton and Associates, a fund raising and public relations firm in Queenstown, MD. She will continue to serve as chair of the Board's Admissions Committee. John Flato is Director of College Recruiting at Ernst & Young in New York City. He is a former member of the Alumni Council, a current member of the Visiting Committee and an adviser to the

College's Center for Career Development. ▀

## Directory To Mail Soon

**B**ERNARD C. HARRIS Publishing Company is in the final stages of acquiring and editing biographical information to be included in the Washington College Alumni Directory 2001. Directories will be mailed in early December.

If you haven't already done so, please respond to the Harris questionnaire by calling toll free 1-800-829-8532.

Alumni may order books directly from Harris. The directory is \$69.99 for the regular edition, and \$79.99 for the CD-ROM version. ▀



Sue Denton '69 (left) and John Flato '69 are College trustees.

# College Raft Nearly Clinches Tea Party Race

by Paul O'Hearn '97

A GROUP FROM Washington College took to the high seas of the mighty Chester River to participate in the annual Chestertown Tea Party Raft Race in May. The raft was painstakingly and lovingly fashioned over a matter of hours out of plywood, nylon rope and the finest blue plastic barrels available in all the Upper Shore. Metal piping with plywood screwed to the end served as oars. No expense was spared.

The group consisted of six rowers: Charlie Athey '01, Carlton Hughes '02, assistant tennis coach Salim Chraïbi,

assistant swimming coach Scott Steinmuller '96, Jason Miller, and Paul O'Hearn '97. Jenny An '96 called the strokes and Molly Herr '02 subbed into the rowing lineup when someone needed a rest.

The doughty vessel and her fearless crew claimed third place out of 12 rafts, much to the delight of hundreds who had come to watch the spectacle. While other craft (dare I say boats?) were faster, and others still more creatively decorated, this group's ground-breaking floating-square-barge design proved up to the task. It won acclaim for finishing in the top three while constantly on the verge of sinking into the murky depths of the Chester, which, it should be noted, had already swallowed a pair of rafts.

A great time was had by all and (top-secret) plans are already in the works for a new raft next year. ▀



Following the "Life After Liberal Arts" discussion, Tammy Tiehel Stedman '86 shares her Oscar with her former German professor, Joachim Scholz, whom she remembers as being extraordinarily caring to his students.

## WASHINGTON COLLEGE, YOUR WILL, AND MISSING WORDS

As you read this little \_\_\_\_\_, please fill in the \_\_\_\_\_ by using the \_\_\_\_\_ in the list below. Thank \_\_\_\_\_.

Even though most \_\_\_\_\_ know that a will is \_\_\_\_\_, a surprising number die \_\_\_\_\_ (without a will). When this happens, the \_\_\_\_\_ steps in and dictates where the estate \_\_\_\_\_ will go. A probate judge determines who will act as your personal representative (\_\_\_\_\_ ) and the person who will be the \_\_\_\_\_ for any dependents you may have.

Without a \_\_\_\_\_, you won't be able to make a \_\_\_\_\_ to Washington College or other organizations you care about. Nor will you be able to minimize any possible estate \_\_\_\_\_.

We encourage you to find a good estate - \_\_\_\_\_ attorney for advice and preparation of the documents you need. Getting a valid will takes a little \_\_\_\_\_ and effort, but the result will be \_\_\_\_\_ of mind, not only for you but also for your loved ones. Also, since 1998 more than \_\_\_\_\_ million in planned gifts has benefitted the College.

So don't \_\_\_\_\_. Make an appointment \_\_\_\_\_. And remember, not having a will is a blank only you can \_\_\_\_\_.

To receive our free brochure, "Ensuring Your Wishes: A Guide To Your Will," contact Don Moore, Executive Director of Planned \_\_\_\_\_. You can reach Don at 1-800-422-1782, ext 7411, or by e-mail, don.moore@washcoll.edu

Word List: Choose the correct word from this list.

bequest	state	peace	people	giving	planning
taxes	you	executor/executrix	article	guardian	fill
intestate	time	important	procrastinate	words	assets
\$6.0	will	today	blanks		

THE  
George Washington  
SOCIETY



ANSWER: Correct words in order of use - article, blanks, words, you, people, important, intestate, state, assets, executor/executrix, guardian, will, bequest, taxes, planning, time, peace, \$6.0, procrastinate, today, filling, giving.



## CLASS NOTES

1933

**MARY PARK FRIEL**

is the proud great-grandmother of three great-grandsons. The latest, Jacob William Friel, was born April 11, 2001 to Gina and Jay Friel. Jacob joins big brother Samuel, 18 months.

1934

**DOROTHY KIMBLE RYAN**

lives in Salisbury, MD, with her daughter, Mary Carolyn Ryan Tilghman '64, and her husband, Phil Tilghman '64. Dot volunteers at the hospital in Salisbury, where she took part in Teddy Bear Repair Day. Children brought their ailing stuffed animals to the hospital outpatient area and followed the procedure of a patient coming in for treatment. "Surgeon Dot" and other volunteers did the repair work, some of which was extremely challenging, but which made some children very happy.

**WALTER K. MOFFETT**

celebrated both his 87th birthday and his and wife Doris' 65th wedding anniversary in February. Walter was employed by the Fabrics and Finishes Department of the duPont Company for 39 years and for three years during World War II was chief chemical engineer of the Wabash River Ordnance Works. In 1997 the Moffetts retired to sunny Florida.

1939

**MARY BROWN MOORE**

has a great-grandchild, Morgan Stewart Hanson, born in October 1999.

1950

**WILLIAM AND JANE GALLOWAY WARTHER '51**

will celebrate their 52nd anniversary on June 26, 2001.

1955

**DONALD OWINGS**

finds it fascinating that, after

majoring in English, he has spent his career as director of administrative computer services at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY. Nevertheless, he finds his career challenging and enjoyable.

1957

**JESSIE MILLER COLEMAN**

became a great-grandmother on December 2, 2000 to Natalie Elizabeth McCollum.

**RALPH AND ELAINE GLENDON LAWS**

Ralph is working for the Treasury Department and until the end of June served as an adviser in Srpska, Bosnia.

1959

**SALLY GROOME COOPER**

and a number of Alpha Chi's from '59 and '60 have reconnected in the past year. She still tries to "boss" her little sister, Sally Brown Lackey, "and she still doesn't listen to me." Sally works as a teacher at Riverhill High School in Howard County, MD, and also serves on the animal care and youth committee of the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

**BARBARA FREY AGNEW**

writes: "As a result of the November 2000 elections, the Democratic Vermont Speaker of the House lost his House majority, and his job. Consequently, so did I. I got lucky again, though, and moved on to the governor's office as special assistant for boards and commissions. As an 'exempt' state employee, I may have to waft out of here in two years, but it is interesting and challenging while it lasts."

1964

**WILLIAM MORGAN**

is semi-retired after 35 years as an independent insurance agent.

**MARGARET FLACCUS CANADA**

finished her master's degree in



Dr. Ralph Thornton '40, former English professor, recently celebrated his 81<sup>st</sup> birthday.

community counseling from Fairfield University and is working as a national board-certified counselor with a domestic abuse agency.

1967

**MARK SCHULMAN, PH.D.,**

is President-elect of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR), one of the nation's largest organizations of public opinion, market research and social research professionals.

1968

**HENRY AND KATHLEEN AGNEW BIDDLE '70**

are proud parents of Erin, a junior at Boston College, who was inducted into Psi Chi, the national honor society in psychology, and the National Honor Society of Collegiate Scholars. Erin also traveled to Amsterdam in September for course work in international studies.

**DENNIS LANE**

is the founder and chair of



Douglas Darnowski (far left), assistant professor of biology, led a group of alumni on a tour of Longwood Gardens near Wilmington, DE, in May. The tour of "Fatal Flora and Other Signs of Spring" was part of WC Odyssey 2001: Faculty-Guided Tours of Museums and Other Cool Places.

Vermont's only viable third political party, the Vermont Grassroots Party. He was the party's candidate for president in 2000. Dennis also is a freedom fighting cannabis activist and is active in the hemp industry.

## 1969

### THEODORE PARKS

and his wife are happy to report the marriage of their son, Jeremy, to Emily Masura, on September 30, 2000, in Winston-Salem, NC.

### DIANA HILL KELLER

and her husband, Robert, announce the marriage of their son, Scott, in October.

## 1971

### JIM DILLON

loves his job as a speech therapist for adolescents in Gonzales, CA, a pretty farm town. "Lots of hilltop stargazing. Family flourishing."

## 1972

### ANN HILLARD LILLY

works at a Baltimore law firm when not traveling in France. Her husband, Tom '73, is a variety entertainer traipsing the mid-Atlantic region.

### BOB METAXA

writes: "Harford Community College and Washington College prepared me well for the course my life took after graduation. I have spent my working career in the area of civil rights,

first with the Broward County Office of Community Relations and, since 1976, with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, where I have investigated thousands of employment discrimination cases. I am a supervisory investigator with the Miami District Office, and I have a great office with a view of the Port of Miami and Biscayne Bay. Washington College and, in particular, sociology professors Horsley and Grouf, raised my social awareness." Bob is the father of Morgan Elizabeth, 12, and a stepson, Cliff, "who has given me two beautiful grandchildren. I reside in Deerfield Beach and unexpectedly added excitement to my life by purchasing a Chrysler PT Cruiser and a Harley Davidson Softail Classic."

## 1973

### NORBERTO VIAMONTE

and his wife, Patricia Perry Viamonte '74, have returned from Spain and live in Ohio.

## 1974

### VICKY CRENSON LAZELL

and her daughter spent Thanksgiving with Lynn Virgilio Ogilvy '75. Lynn said they both had fun talking and laughing, just as they did when they went to WC.

### ROSANNE JOHNSON JARRELL

lives in Closter, NJ, and recently was elected to the Board of Directors of the Center for Food

Action, a non-profit food bank serving the hungry and homeless in northern New Jersey. An active volunteer for several years, Rosanne recently raised \$30,000 by organizing the Center's golf outing. When not doing charitable work, she is vice president of Oritani Savings Branch.

## 1975

### BOB HICKMAN

and his entire family are proud to announce that their daughter, Katie, will attend WC this coming fall. "Now our family will have more involvement with WC and the Chestertown community. We all look forward to the next four years!"

### JOHN LORD

wanted to participate in Professor Day's lecture on illuminated letters at the Getty Museum but had to stay home and nurse a hip injury. He's looking forward to future WC events in California.

### JOE CONNOR

"Gigi and I continue to live in Towson, MD. Our son Mac just finished his junior year at Penn State, and our daughter Jill just completed 7th grade at the Cathedral School in Baltimore."

## 1976

### STEVEN (JEFF) BAXTER

launched CardClues.com, a new consumer credit card decision guide Web site. After a career in banking and spending the '90s

building a consulting practice, Jeff decided to jump on board the Internet bandwagon. If it doesn't fly, he'll revert to playing golf and blackjack in Las Vegas with his former clients. Jeff lives in Forest Hill, MD, with his wife, Susan, sons Kyle, 16, and Will, 14, and their dog, Tripper.

### DANIEL N. SCHARF

lives in Dana Point, CA, near Laguna Beach. After a long stay in the fashion clothing business as a national sales manager for a variety of companies, including ESPRIT, he left to be an artistic painter. He has four children: Sarah, Hannah, Colby and Tucker.

## 1977

### NANCY TRAVERS COLLINS

is a new grandmother to Mackenzie Ann.

## 1978

### KAREN JARRELL

still lives in Madrid with her daughter Luisa, 18, and her husband, Avelino. Karen works for the American International Group as an English consultant. She "would love to hear from anybody else in my class in person or via e-mail, particularly Liz Butler, Steve Kinlock, Robin Brown, Verna Wilkins or Joanne Miller."

## 1980

### ROBERT CHAPONIS,

who is working on his doctorate, was visited by Mark Chapman '80 this past winter.

### MARK CHAPMAN

still works at the Langley School in McLean, VA, in the development office. He'd like to hear from old friends at [mchapman@langley.edu.net](mailto:mchapman@langley.edu.net).

## 1981

### JULIE WHEELER CYRAN

is a development manager for IBM in Southbury, CT.

## 1982

### JULIE SCOTT GARTLAND

received four awards for her writing from the New Jersey Press Association in April. A lifestyle feature writer for the *Messenger-Press* and *Windsor-Hights Herald* newspapers, she was awarded first place for fea-



ture writing, first place for "freshest treatment of a tired topic," third place for education writing, and third place for special subject writing. She began as a freelance writer for Princeton Packet Publications in 1998. She attributes most of her success in writing to her liberal arts education and the Welsh spirit within her. She lives in Allentown, NJ, with her husband, Robert, and two sons.

#### PETER TURCHI

co-edited a book with Charles Baxter, titled *Bringing the Devil to His Knees: The Craft of Fiction and the Writing Life*, published by the University of Michigan Press. He also wrote a short story, "Black Eye," which appeared in the spring issue of *The Colorado Review*, and a profile of poet Heather McHugh that will appear in the literary journal *Ploughshares* later this year.

#### DAVID POINTON

and his family—wife Mary Lou, Kelly, 10, Rachel 8, and Jackson, 5—have relocated to Singapore, where Dave is international business development manager for 3M Company. Dave coordinates activities in 17 countries for 3M's traffic and personal safety business. If you are in the area, contact Dave at [dapoint1@mmm.com](mailto:dapoint1@mmm.com).

## 1983

#### LINDA BENSON

and her husband, Rob, moved to Virginia's Northern Neck and love it. They plan to buy a larger sailboat and head across the Atlantic for Europe and the Mediterranean next year.

#### MELANIE PULLEN GNESS

joined Dell Computer as the senior manager of public affairs in Washington, DC. Her husband, Peter, is a consultant and golfer. Son Tyler is in first grade; he plays soccer and baseball and takes karate lessons.

## 1984

#### LINDSEY EVANS-THOMAS

is still working in the film production field and taking care of her two-year-old.

## 1985

#### MONICA JARMER KNUCKLES

and husband, Gary, celebrated their 10th anniversary in May. They have two children—Samantha, 5, and Steven, 3. Monica writes, "I am currently employed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation Laboratory in Washington, DC, as a forensic examiner/chemist. My area of specialty is in paints, pressure-sensitive tapes and polymers in general. This work is done not only for the FBI but for any federal, state or local agency requesting a forensic examination. I then get to travel all over the U.S. to testify to my results as an expert witness. I have traveled to Saudi Arabia, Kenya, South Africa, Samoa, American Samoa, Guam, Argentina and Panama. I have testified in the Oklahoma City bombing trial, the bombing of Florida A&M University, many homicide cases and hit-and-run fatalities. I worked on the Jon Benet Ramsey case, the World Trade Center bombing, the Atlanta Olympic Park bombing, the sniper homicide of Dr. Slepian and many other national and international cases. When I am not globetrotting, I stay in my quiet little home in Southern Maryland and ride my horses, feed my chickens and tend my gardens."

## 1986

#### LYNNE ATTIAS-ALLEGRA

was promoted recently to Associate Director, Organizational Development for Pharmacia, Consumer Healthcare in the Americas. Lynne, husband Michael and daughter Ashley, 8, reside in Bedminster, NJ. Lynne is working on her master's degree in organizational behavior.

In March, English professor Robert Day (to immediate left of sign) guided a group of alumni in California through an exhibit of illuminated manuscripts at the J. Paul Getty Museum. From this WC Odyssey 2001 tour stop in Los Angeles, Professor Day headed to Phoenix, where he met another group of alumni at the Frank Lloyd Wright Museum.

#### ODETTE POWERS NEWTON

lives in Houston with husband Billy and children Jessica, Rick and Sophia.

#### JULIE LOESCH WALROND

and her husband, Thomas, live in Gwynedd Valley, PA. Thomas is head of Raymond James Financial in Philadelphia.

## 1987

#### TODD DEL PRIORE

recently became a life member of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad and continues as a member of its Board of Directors.

#### SUSAN M. KOLLS

would love to hear from members of her class, especially Allyson Halbach, Chris DiPietro and Vincent Hynson, at [zenmaster1000@mediaone.net](mailto:zenmaster1000@mediaone.net).

#### MARK NASTEFF

practices law in Kansas City, MO. He has two children, Trey, 6, and Maddi, 4½, and looks forward to getting together with Pat McMenamin and Lincoln Karnoff this summer.

## 1988

#### KRISTINA TATUSKO HENRY

is the marketing and development coordinator for the Academy Art Museum in Easton, MD. Last spring Kristina served as a panelist on Children's Book Market, a Maryland writers' program sponsored by the Bethesda Writing Center.

#### GEOFFREY W. GIBBONS

rents scooters in Bermuda and enjoys his three children—Lawrence, 4, and twins Abigail and Danielle, 2.

## 1989

#### TOM CONATY

and his wife, Jennifer, live in Wilmington, DE, with their 2-year-old daughter, Louise Tracy. Tom recently was appointed co-president of the Wilmington area alumni chapter.

#### TRAVIS ALDOUS

sends congratulations to Ed Conrad on his completion of training at Ric Flair's Wrestling Academy. Ed has been signed to a developmental contract with the World Wrestling Federation.

#### ERIKA JANSSON SWARTZKOPF

is a librarian in an all-girls private school on the island of Oahu. "Weekends find me playing harmonica in a blues band or painting abstract watercolors. I am currently putting together an exhibition of some of my works. 'Aloha' to everyone in the class of 1989."

#### WALTER SPENCE

Writes: "After an 11-year whirlwind tour of the deep south, Louisiana and Arkansas, I finally got back home to Richmond, VA, where I still work with Alcoa, formerly known as Reynolds Metals, as the rolling superintendent for foil products. I am returning with my wife Suzanne, daughter Briana, 8, son



## B I R T H S   A N D   A D O P T I O N S

To Jennifer and Rick Franz '76, a daughter, Nadeline Bea, on March 21, 2001.

To Julie Wheeler Cyran '81 and husband, Michael, a son, Nicholas James, on December 27, 2000. Nicholas joins big brother Justin, 2.

To Jessica Fowler Vaughan '82, a daughter, Claire, on May 9, 2000. Claire joins two brothers and a sister.



Jenniler Nyman White '94 and her husband, Sandy, are living in Springville, UT. Sandy is finishing his residency in family medicine. Jen stays at home with their three children (pictured, from left): Hannah, Maddie and Spencer. Spencer was born October 2, 2000.

To Emily J. Morris '82 and husband, Gus Litonjua, a daughter, Kathryn, on December 12, 2000.

To Laurie Betz Tillet '84 and husband, Daniel, a daughter, Sarah Ann, on January 18, 2001. Sarah Ann joins big sister Emily, 2.

To Carolyn Ellis Sands '85 and husband, Sean, a son, William Michael, on November 5, 2000. Will joins big sisters Maggie, 4, and Lauren, 2.

To Susan M. Kolls '87 and husband, Neadson, a son, Ryder James, on December 28, 2000. Ryder joins sister Zoe Elizabeth, 5.

To Camille Dickerson '88 a son, Grahm Wesley, on August 11, 1999.

To Susan Odenath Eversull '88 and husband, William, a son, Liam Christian, on June 4, 2000. He joins brother Ian Connor, 4.

To Sarah Moore Pyle '90 and husband, Cary, a son, Charlie, on October 25, 2000.

To Marnie Shehan Suckell '90 and husband, Chris, a daughter, Alexandra Nicole, on September 1, 2000.

To Kelly Smokovich Van Buren '90 and Peter Van Buren '90, a daughter, Lauren, on December 14, 2000. Lauren joins big brother Christopher, 2.

To Heather Donovan Phillips '91 and husband, Joe, a daughter, Kiersten Margaret, on December 22, 2000. Kiersten joins big brother Liam and big sister Catalyn.

To Matthew Giller '91 and wife, Catherine, a daughter, Isabelle, on



Steve Alias '90 and his wife, Elizabeth, welcomed the arrival of their son, Christopher Ben, whom they adopted on December 30, 2000.



Megan Ballard Carllon '85 (left), mother of one-year-old twin daughters Hadley and Alexandra (far right, held by Leslie d'Ablemont Feeley '88), hosted a mini-reunion at her home in Marblehead, MA. Amy d'Ablemont Burnes '85 (center) holds her daughter Orly, born February 21, 2001. Leslie is expecting her second child in June.

February 2, 2001. Isabelle joins big brother Robby, almost 2.

To Alix Goode Rickloff '91 and husband, John '90, a son, Thomas Edward, on September 9, 2000. Thomas joins older sister Georgia.

To Veryan Beacham Khan '92 and Imran Khan '91, a son, Layth, in September 2000.

To Margaret Doyle Bitz '92 and husband, Andrew, a son, Connor Patrick, on December 25, 2000.

To Jennifer Blenckstone Boyce '92 and husband, E. Gillet, a daughter, Grace Ann, on May 29, 2000.

To Keri Nygaard Mitchell '93 and husband, David, a son, David III, in September 2000.

To Amanda Burt Newell '93 and Jonathan Newell '92, a son, Jacob Gray, on March 27, 2001.

To Will Brandenburg '93 M'95 and wife, Chris, a daughter, Darby, on April 6, 2001. Doug and Cathy Sarno '92 are Darby's godparents.

To Doug and Catherine Hoffberger '94, a daughter, Charlotte Elmyre van Ogtrop, on March 7, 2001.

To Jennifer Bornfriend Day '94 and husband, Barry, a daughter, Alexandra Hope, on February 7, 2001.

To Andrew Parks '94 and his wife, Loula, a son, Mathewson Lee Wagner, on November 7, 2000. Mathewson joins big sister Gilles, 3.

To Colleena Wiseman Calhoun '99 and husband, Thomas, a daughter, Nia Michelle, on February 26, 2001.



Walter Jr. (a.k.a. Bucky), 5, and daughter, Charlotte, 2."

## 1990

### DON DIEFENDORF

works as a physician's assistant at Mercy Medical Center. He is active in his church, where he sings with the worship team and serves on the vestry. He and wife Jenny live in Reisterstown, MD, where he is a paramedic with the Reisterstown Fire Company.

### VINCENT MAXIMO

is an assistant vice president at MBNA America and reports that his work requires frequent trips to the U.K. and Ireland. He was invited to play in the 2000 National World Team Tennis Tournament hosted by tennis legend Billie Jean King. After he and his teammates won the Delaware Valley sectional, they went on to win the east regional, finally finishing third in the nation. Vince reports that he and his teammates are on the way to play the 2001 east regional again with hopes of advancing to the national tournament in 2001.

## 1991

### MATTHEW GILLER

and his family live in Rye, NY, where he is an OTC trader for Morgan Stanley in NYC. He'd love to hear from all Sho'men classmates, so e-mail him at [mjgiller@yahoo.com](mailto:mjgiller@yahoo.com).

### LIAM KENNEDY

is a reference librarian at Shepherd College in Shepherdstown, WV. Liam is glad to be back in the Baltimore/ Washington region after three years at the University of Southern Mississippi.

### JEFFREY W. VAIL'S

book, *The Literary Relationship of Lord Byron and Thomas Moore*, was published by The Johns Hopkins University Press in November 2000. Jeff received his doctorate from the University of Delaware in 1998 and teaches at Boston University.

## 1992

### KARYN IACANGELO KERRIS

reports that she is really ill at this time and would love to re-

ceive e-mails/letters from old schoolmates. Please contact her at 8938 Footed Ridge, Columbia, MD 21045, or by e-mail at [kk116w@nih.gov](mailto:kk116w@nih.gov).

### TODD KAGLER

is director of manufacturing for Bindagraphics, Inc., the fifth largest book manufacturer in the U.S. He lives in Cockeysville, MD, with his wife, Vicky, and their two children, Heather and Michael.

### DAVID SNYDER

lives in Kenya, where he does media relations for an international relief and development agency. He spends his free time "avoiding car jackers, not learning Swahili, and wondering why the British never installed street lights while they were here." He would love to receive e-mail from former classmates at [Dsnyder@crs-ert.or.ke](mailto:Dsnyder@crs-ert.or.ke)

## 1993

### SARA BOGGESS MEINSLER

is a social worker at Oak Crest Village Retirement Community in Parkville, MD.

### GEOFFREY DONAHUE

is the new hazardous materials coordinator for the Maryland Emergency Management Agency. Feel free to e-mail him at [USAR29@aol.com](mailto:USAR29@aol.com)

## 1994

### CHANDEV ABHAYARATNE

is the CEO of a pre-paid phone card company in Sri Lanka. His company is the leader in pre-paid international calling cards, and also operates a network of wireless pay phone booths in major cities in Sri Lanka. His son, Chetan, is six months old.

### ANNA HERRMANN

and partner James Marlowe have opened a custom tattooing boutique, "Comes A Time," in Fairfax City, VA. Anna is a body piercer as well as a tattoo artist. Anna's Washington College diploma is displayed prominently on the wall of her studio, where it adds distinction to the stylish, upscale decor the artists have created. They work by appointment and can be reached at 703-383-0699.

### ANDREW PARKS

lives in Bell Buckle, TN, where he is athletic director at The Webb School.

## 1996

### MARK REYERO

is employed as a Cisco Sales Engineer with GE Capital IT Solutions. He designs and implements high-end networking solutions. He is currently a Cisco Certified Network Professional, Cisco Certified Design Professional and Microsoft Certified Professional. Mark has been accepted into GE's Fast Track Cisco Certified Internetworking Expert (CCIE) training program. Upon completion of the program in late 2001, he hopes to pass a grueling two-day CCIE lab exam and become one of 5,000 CCIEs worldwide. In his "spare" time, Mark serves as the Annapolis Alumni Chapter president. He plans to run in the Marine Corps Marathon in October and would enjoy hearing from any other WC alumni planning to run.

### ROBIN WOOLLENS BRUBAKER

lives in West Lawn, PA, with her husband, Chad, who teaches

high school English. Robin works with Operation Head Start as a health specialist and registered nurse. "E-mail us at [rob@early.com](mailto:rob@early.com)."

## 1997

### TANAE COATES

is a correctional officer at Maryland's "Supermax," the Maryland Correctional Adjustment Center, and the mother of five-month-old Joseph Isaiah Markei. She hopes to see everyone soon!

### MATTHEW MULLIN

splits his time between the Chesapeake and the Teton mountains, "forever searching for the answer."

### PAULA LINK NEWSOME

writes, "The Navy has moved us again! My husband is now stationed at NAS North Island, and we are living in San Diego. Noah is almost 18 months old, and we spend our days enjoying the warmth of southern California."

## 1998

### BRADLEY CRATE

lives in New York City, where



At Reunion 2001, Heather Donovan Phillips '91 (left) introduces her daughter Kiersten to Leigh Ann Gay '91.



## MARRIAGES

Sara Boggess '93 to Tim Meinsler on December 9, 2000. Jen Sloan DiPaula '93, Sharon Davis Brogan '93, Brigid DeVries Morahan '93 and Julie Dill '93 were members of the wedding party.

Jill Schultz '96 to Matt Distler '96 on September 2, 2000.

Beth Knieriem '92 to MacGregor Tisdale on May 20, 2000. Margaret Doyle Bitz '92, Karen Brady Graham '92 and Chris Graham '94 attended the wedding; Kristy Hilgartner Cummings '92 and Jennifer Jaeger '92 were members of the bridal party.

Marcia Mowbray '95 and Andrew Evans '94 (right) were married on November 4, 2000. Krislen Nemecek '98 was in the wedding party.



Hilary Rainey '98 and Paul Kenny '97 were married on March 10, 2001 in Chester Heights, PA. Members of the bridal party were Jessica Rainey '99, Gene Vassel '97 and Megan Miller '98. Dermot Quigley '99 was soloist. Alumni in attendance were Fredi Kanther '98, Brad Crate '98, Chris Camillo '97, Jen Higgins '99, Tim Pilarski '97, Tyler Benedum '98, Ben Harris '98, Lee Ann Lezzer '97, Chris Douma '00, Bradd Burkhart '98, Maggy Kilroy '00, Katie Dell '98, Joe McDonald '98, Barbaranna Mocella '98, Megan Miller '98, Robyn Carlsensen '97, Matt King '98, Mike Hinkle '98, Julie Larosa '00, Jamie Stumpf '98, Brian Tipton '96, Brian Hopkins '99, Derek Cuff '97, Lanae Arnold '01, Meggan Smith '98, Kris Murphy '94, Craig Flury '96, Jen Hanifee '96, Joe Burke '98, Matt Hanifee '00, Nicole Jones '99, Mat Newkirk '97, Mary Ryan O'Hara '98 and Charlotte Stephenson '97.

he is an interest rate derivatives trader for JPMorgan Chase.

### ELIZABETH DOPPLER

completed her master's degree in clinical psychology and is pursuing her Ph.D. at Suffolk University in Boston.

## 1999

### STACY V. LARKIN

is a planner/buyer for Aether Systems, the country's leading wireless application provider. She recently purchased a new house with close friend and roommate Heather Pyzik '99 in New Town, Owings Mills, MD. Stacy spends her free time training her golden retriever, Dudley, for the Canine Olympics' obstacle course race.

### BRETT GABA

is a fitness instructor on Kent Island, MD. He and his roommate, John Basedow, also a fitness guru, own two Shar-Peis named Squeeze and Release.

### JOHN "J.T." CUNIC

graduated in May from Idaho State University with a master's of education degree in human resource management. He plans to spend the summer traveling the West and then enroll in an MBA program at Southwest Missouri State University.

## 2000

### CHARLES T. "CHAD" DEAN III

served on the Caroline County Democratic Central Committee as the youngest elected official in the State of Maryland.

### MICHAEL STORKE

is working on his master's degree at the University of Delaware, where he is the assistant coach of the women's rowing team.

## MASTERS

## 1976

### PATRICIA MARSHALL SCHWANINGER

is looking forward to her first visit back to Washington College in 65 years. She turned 85 in June.

1985

JOHN WHEELER

bought a farm and recently returned from a five-week visit to the Philippines.

1992

DAVE SEARLES

worked as a park ranger at the Harry S Truman National Historic Site last summer and plans to serve as a park ranger again. He continues to work to preserve and protect the environment and our national heritage through the Ecotopian Society and the American Heritage Service. ■

Jen Jefferson '91 and Jacque Collins Kilduff '91 could not attend their ten-year reunion; however, they made the effort to celebrate. The two raised a toast to the class of 1991 from Belgium, where Jen spent a week in May with Jacque. They had a great time talking about the "old" days while creating some fabulous new memories. "Hello to everyone, especially our former roomie Michelle Darling."



## IN MEMORIAM

Dr. I. Benson Allen '30, an optometrist for 40 years, died on February 19, 2001.

Arlene Gale McLain '33 died on September 17, 2000.

William E. Burkhardt '34 died on March 15, 2001. He was a teacher, coach and principal in Delaware and Maryland until retiring in 1972. He was elected to the Orphans Court of Cecil County, MD, where he served as Chief Judge. A past member of the election board of Cecil County, he also was active in the Cecil County Teachers' Association, the Elkton Lions Club, the Elkton Elks Lodge and the Cecil County Historical Society. He contributed a chapter on the "History of Cecil County" to Charles Clark '34's *History of the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia*.

Marie Regester Peet '37, a lifelong teacher, died on March 1, 2001.

Philip A. Hickman Jr. '38, a Navy veteran of World War II,

died on March 9, 2001. He joined Joseph E. Seagrams as a chemist after graduation and retired in 1982. Hickman was a member of the Rotary and Kiwanis clubs.

Edward Turner '38 died June 7, 1997. He is survived by his son, David M '77.

Milton F.V. Glock '40 died on April 16, 2001. His wife, Betty, expressed her thanks to the College for the pride he felt in being a Washington College graduate and for the years of friendship with his fellow Lambda Chi Alpha brothers and other students.

Frederick H. Poughkeepsie '42 died on August 8, 2000.

Norma Murray Shores '42 died on March 16, 2001. She was a social worker for the Somerset County (MD) Department of Social Services and retired from the operations division of Peninsula Bank. She was a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of O.T. Beauchamp Post 94 American Legion.

Margaret Ann Fenderson, LCDR, USN (Ret.) '43 died on August 5, 2000. She entered the Navy in 1943 and, until 1946, served as the Coding Board officer in the cryptography section, which was responsible for breaking the Japanese code in World War II. She re-entered the Navy during the Korean War, serving as an officer in the cryptography branch at the Navy Security Station from 1950 until 1952, when she retired.

Jane Harte Haley '46 died March 4, 2001.

Kirby L. Smith '48, the Kent & Queen Anne's chapter president of the Alumni Council, died on February 5, 2001. He was a member of the Rotary Club, the Historical Society and Christ United Methodist Church. He is survived by his wife, Peggy Benton Smith '46.

Howard C. Nesbitt '48 died December 23, 2000. He was a retired professor from Morehead State University and the University of Southern Mississippi.

Robert Adelbert Hungerford '50 of Murphy, NC, died on January

20, 2000. A World War II veteran, "Del" worked as project manager for the Apollo Project. In retirement, he served as president of the Ranger Volunteer Fire Department and President of the Cherokee Fire Chief Association.

Mary Church Westerdahl '61 died on February 19, 2001.

Myron H. "Mike" Causey '57 died on December 23, 2000. He served two terms as president of the Salisbury (MD) Pony League and was active with the Salvation Army Boys Club. Mike served on the Board of Trustees of the Asbury United Methodist Church in Mt. Vernon, MD, where he was a Sunday school teacher.

Mary Sandra "Boo" Massengill Vinci '62 died on February 3, 2001.

Carolyn S. Cridler-Smith '66 died on February 2, 2001.

Judy Lynn Bowles '90 died July 6, 2000.



## Doing Justice To The Past: Living Ubuntu

by Dennis Wilson '01

In January of 1993 Amy Biehl, a determined young woman of 25 years, traveled to South Africa in those alluring and precipitous days when the apartheid state stood on the brink of implosion and a new, experimental democracy was poised to rise from its ashes. A Fulbright Scholar, Biehl was making the trip to study the role of women in the negotiations that would lead to the chartering of what is now heralded as "the world's most liberal constitution." Knowing that South African women faced multiple forms of discrimination, Biehl was committed to an exhaustive study of the political and social effects of gender and democratic transition.

Four months later, however, Biehl's mission came to a tragic end. Amidst the localized and often indiscriminate disorder that pervaded South Africa during that turbulent period, she was stoned to death as she was driving through an impoverished township to drop off a friend. Her lifelong ambitions remained as incomplete and hazy as the story of violence that led to her premature death; it was known only that her killing may have been precipitated by a local man urging his neighbors to attack any whites in the township.

From the fatal trajectory

of those misbegotten stones, however, came a monumental act of atonement that was to signify the most hopeful elements of South Africa's struggle for democracy and reconciliation. In an effort to perpetuate the dreams of their daughter, Peter and Linda Biehl established the Amy Biehl Foundation and, later, the Youth on Violence Foundation, both directed at exploring the lasting effects of apartheid and its relation to widespread youth violence and disenfranchisement in South African townships. These foundations work from a holistic view of rehabilitation, incorporating education, sports, arts and employment, and they are largely self-sustaining. They are financed in part through a baking trust that provides much-needed food and entrepreneurial experience to the people of the townships.

Peter and Linda Biehl spend their time traveling between South Africa and the United States, working to provide direction in the townships and raise awareness of South Africa's situation abroad. This April, the Biehls visited Washington College to discuss a concept that has played a vital role in their own lives and in the life of South Africa's maturing democracy—the concept of ubuntu, or restorative justice.

Ubuntu is a concept of justice unfamiliar to many modern non-African societies. It implies a system of justice based on mutual reconciliation. To give a simplified example: one man has stolen another man's goat. When his act is discovered, he is asked to return the goat and to loan an additional goat to the victim's family to make up for lost resources. More importantly, he is expected to reach an understanding with the victim's family—to honestly explain his actions and to atone with his neighbors. In this way, the cycle of communal hostility is halted.

The implications of ubuntu, of course, go further than goats and local communities. Although the ubuntu system of justice has yet to be incorporated into the court systems, its framework has been applied to the nation's struggle to move on toward an inclusive future. The Truth and Reconciliation Committee (TRC) is the embodiment of this attempt—it allows for perpetrators (black and white) of apartheid-related crimes to be granted diplomatic immunity and freedom from imprisonment. The main requirement? A full confession before the committee, the victim's relatives and, through the press, the world community. Through these open confessions, these open discussions of pain and misunderstanding, it is hoped that the people of South Africa will come together to reach a common ground and understanding.

It is a system not without

complications. It is impossible to ensure personal or national reconciliation through law. Many disagree with the mission of the TRC, unhappy that it allows known criminals to re-enter the community. Also, experiments such as the TRC face hardships as a new generation rises to maturity: a generation that has nothing to reconcile with but a foreign and unfamiliar past.

Such is the nature of the ubuntu system, however, that its successes are not witnessed through theory or pedagogy. The fruitions of ubuntu are seen only in the hearts of those whose lives it has affected. Linda and Peter Biehl testify to the character of this statement. Eight years after the death of their daughter, they work hand-in-hand with two very unlikely community activists—two of the four men charged with the murder of their daughter. The Biehls attest that there is no hostility among the four of them, who have succeeded in living ubuntu. Having realized an unquantifiable loss and traveled halfway across the world to reconcile with that loss, the Biehls have determined to give back to the system of ubuntu what it has given them—an opportunity to generate understanding and forgiveness across sometimes impossible boundaries. ▀

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*Dennis Wilson '01, a history major, spent a semester on academic exchange at Rhodes University in South Africa. He intends to become a teacher.*

# COLLEGE EVENTS

## July 2-27

"From Moses to Jack Welch: Portraits of Leadership in Western Culture." Alumni Online Seminar taught by Michael Harvey, assistant professor of business management.

## July 12

George Washington interpreter to talk on the life and times of the nation's first president. Norman James Theatre, 1 p.m.

## July 14

Chester River Swim for Life. The 10th Annual Chester River Swim benefits the Baltimore and Eastern Shore area HIV support groups.

## August 21

Freshman Assembly. President John Toll and Provost Joachim Scholz welcome freshmen and their families. Tawes Theatre, 2 p.m.

## August 27

Classes begin.

## September 6

Fall Convocation, Tawes Theatre, 7 p.m. Singer Eddy Arnold and outgoing Chairman of the Board of Visitors and Governors Louis Clifford Schroeder are honorees.

## September 8

14th Annual Flea Market benefiting the Kent & Queen Anne's Chapter's Bookstore Scholarship Fund. Campus lawn, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

## September 14 & 15

Board of Visitors and Governors on campus.

## September 15

Chestertown Candlelight Tour of historic homes, including the College's Hynson-Ringgold House and Custom House, 5 p.m.

## September 18

Harwood Colloquy, with panelists Mark Shields and Paul Gigot. Moderated by John Harwood. Hynson Lounge, 7 p.m.

## September 20

John Hanson Mitchell, author of *Inventing Place*. Hynson Lounge, time TBD.

## September 22

Alumni Council meeting.

## October 18

Christopher Tilghman, Author of *The Pull of the Land*. Hynson Lounge, time TBD.

## October 26

Poet Heather McHugh reading from her work. Sophie Kerr Room, Miller Library, 4 p.m.

## October 27

Fall Family Day.

## December 7-8

Renaissance Christmas Dinner, Hynson Lounge. For ticket information call (410) 778-7875.

For a monthly calendar of events, contact the special events coordinator at 1-800-422-1782, ext. 7849.

For news, scores and campus event information, visit our Web site at [www.washcoll.edu](http://www.washcoll.edu).

Visit the Washington College Magazine online at <http://magazine.washcoll.edu>.



## Washington College: in person

When either of this pair of international studies majors comes across an opportunity to learn or experience something new, she usually jumps in and then encourages her twin to try it, too. Whether they opted for the Summer Seminar in Cuba (each did, in succeeding years), a USAID Internship in India (Bridget), or a semester abroad in the London program (Gretchen), they both understood the value of immersing themselves in cultures different from their own. "India truly changed me," Bridget says.

Next fall, the two Washington Scholars will spend a semester at the University of Copenhagen in Denmark, learning a new language, studying Danish politics and traveling through Europe. It might be their last opportunity to spend quality time together.

Still, they never intended to go to the same school, or even to major in the same field. Gretchen switched her major when she saw that Bridget's program of choice offered so many more options. With the support of the Margaret Bennett Fund, international studies majors can afford to take advantage of State Department and USAID internships as well as other study and travel abroad opportunities.

"Because there are so many programs available to a relatively small number of students, you can do anything you want," says Bridget. "There's nothing holding you back."

**BRIDGET AND GRETCHEN PURCELL '02**  
*Today, each other. Tomorrow, the world.*